Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-146 *1 August 1989*

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Nations Plan Regional Meeting on Debt
PA0108042689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2301 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 31 Jul (EFE)—The 13 foreign ministers and 17 delegates attending the second informal political dialogue session of Latin American and Caribbean foreign ministers being held in Cartagena de Indias today agreed that the first conference on the foreign debt, to be held in the 1st quarter of 1990, will define parameters for all countries in the region.

On Ecuador's initiative, the delegates agreed to reply to the "Seven Big Powers (the UK, France, Italy, the FRG, Japan, Canada, and the United States)," which backed the implementation of the Brady plan with certain conditions imposed on debtor countries. These conditions include the demand that the debtor countries should increase their adjustments, domestic savings, and investments.

Ecuador today stressed the need to define parameters that meet these conditions and to determine whether the adjustments and the development of savings and investments demanded by the creditors are possible.

Cuba, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago openly supported the Latin American Economic System's [SELA] proposal to lower the foreign debt and interest by 50 percent, to issue bonds with a maturity of 30 and 40 years to amortize the remaining 50 percent, and to establish a 5-percent interest rate. The rest of the countries refrained from openly backing the initiative, which will almost certainly be approved at the regional conference on the foreign debt.

The Argentine delegation said that while waiting for a genuine and permanent solution to the debt problem, Latin America and the Caribbean will have to progress toward integration with specific steps in sectors such as transportation and telecommunications.

The Latin American and Caribbean foreign ministers said that East-West detente, in addition to lowering the risk of a nuclear confrontation, would have to be complemented by true support for Third World development. In the informal political dialogue, the political resolve of the two superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—to strive for peace was acknowledged.

Cuba, Nicaragua, and Chile lauded the recent agreements on detente, but warned that these changes have not been accompanied by better North-South relations. The foreign ministers and delegates agreed that the struggle for peace must be linked to the struggle for development to guarantee not only growth but democratic stability as well.

Nicaragua warned that detente between the superpowers does not automatically solve political problems between the small countries and the superpowers. The Nicaraguan delegation said that despite the progress achieved in nuclear disarmament, some countries—such as Nicaragua and Panama—have continued to maintain firm positions regarding a dialogue with the United States.

Cuba

Havana Radio Reports on Higgins' Death

FL3107181389 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpt] U.S. Marine Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins was hanged, according to an announcement made today by the Oppressed of the World Organization [name of organization in vernacular indistinct]. The U.S. press agency UP reported in a news cable dated in Beirut, Lebanon, that Higgins had been kidnapped in February 1988 and was accused of being a CIA agent.

The Oppressed of the World Organization had announced they would execute the U.S. officer if Israel did not release Shi'ite leader 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, prominent Hizballah leader, who was kidnapped last Thursday [20 July] evening in southern Lebanon by an Israeli commando. This kidnapping gave rise to strong protests by Israel's political left. The Communist Party characterized it as an act of piracy and the Progressive List for Peace presented a motion of condemnation in parliament.

Shortly before Higgins' hanging, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had said Israel prefers to rescue its hostages through military operations but, that in some cases, it was willing to negotiate a swap.

There are 17 Western hostages and three Israeli soldiers in the hands of Lebanese organizations. [passage omitted]

Panamanian Speaks at Ceremony for Torrijos

FL3107204489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Reinaldo Rivera, coordinator of the National Secretariat of the Panamanian Democratic Revolutionary Party and secretary general of the Panamanian Institute of Friendship With Cuba, has said in Havana that Torrijos will never die in the memory of Latin American revolutionaries.

Rivera spoke at the ceremony marking the eighth anniversary of the death of General Omar Torrijos, which was held in front of the bust of Cuba's national hero, Jose Marti, in Havana's Museum of History.

Also present at the ceremony were Rene Rodriguez Cruz, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples, ICAP, and Guillermo Torrielo, president of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America, as well as other people.

Reportage on Malmierca in Cartagena de Indias

Speaks on Economic Relations

FL3107130589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The foreign debt should be eliminated and, at the same time, international economic relations should be changed. This was said by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

Our country's foreign minister, who will attend today the second informal dialogue of Latin American and Caribbean foreign ministers prior to the 15th Latin American Council of the SELA [Latin American Economic System], said it is not possible, even with the greatest of wills, to find financial resources to face the unbearable foreign debt burden.

Malmierca said: We also believe that, even if 100 percent of the debt was eliminated, international economic relations would have to be changed. If not, even if the debt was reduced to zero today, the unbearable situation we suffer now would be repeated.

Talks on Anti-Drug Cooperation

FL3107185089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Report by Carlos Monton from RCN, Radio Cadena Nacional, from Cartagena de Indias, Colombia; live or recorded]

[Text] Foreign ministers from 32 countries are meeting in Cartagena today to analyze, in an informal dialogue, the common problems of Latin America and the Caribbean. At the end of this second informal dialogue of foreign ministers, Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas will open the 15th SELA [Latin American Economic System] ministerial meeting.

In the meantime, Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca lamented how the war against drugs has been waged and criticized the incorrect strategies followed because they confront the problem at the marketing and production levels and not at the consumption level.

Malmierca, who arrived in this capital last night to join his colleagues from 31 Latin American and Caribbean countries attending the first Latin American meeting of the area beginning today Monday [31 July], asserted that as long as there is an insatiable multi-million dollar market, the United States will promote drug trafficking.

He called for actions to be taken to change this situation. The Cuban foreign minister noted that marijuana, like corn and wheat, is becoming one of the largest harvests in the United States, but he did not rule out joint actions between Cuba and large consumers and producers to eliminate the problem.

Discusses Abrantes' Arrest

FL3107013089 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0045 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Cartagena, 31 Jul (NOTIMEX)—Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca today said he did not know the reasons that led to the arrest of former Minister of Interior Jose Abrantes [Fernandez] and of the other four government officials of his country.

Malmierca said that Abrantes had been removed from office due to his weakness, lack of professionalism, and for not having been able to detect that a group of government officials were involved in drug trafficking. The foreign minister added he did not know the reasons which now led to the decision to arrest the former minister, and said he was surprised in the same way he was surprised when Abrantes was removed. The diplomat added that Abrantes was a capable officer, dedicated to his work, and that he carried out his job adequately. That is why his removal, and now his arrest, was a surprise.

The official denied repeated questions from some Colombian reporters regarding an eventual purge of the Cuban leadership—statements originated by dissidents and enemies of the Cuban Government in the United States.

Discusses Drug Trafficking

FL0108124489 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0108 GMT 1 Aug 89

[By correspondent Sylvia Zayago]

[Text] Cartagena, 31 Jul (NOTIMEX)—The ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean, who are meeting for political dialogue, agreed today that the fight against drug trafficking must be fought by both the consumers and the producers.

At the proposal of Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, the representatives from 33 countries of the region expressed support for finding joint solutions among the countries which have a high percentage of drug addicts, such as the United States, and the countries which produce the drugs.

The Bolivian delegate, Luis Fernando Valle, ambassador to Caracas, demanded that the international community provide greater support to the United States in its fight to decrease the rates of drug consumption in that country.

For his part, Jamaica's representative, Minister Ben Clare [minister of state for foreign affairs and foreign trade] proposed that an initiative be taken to the next UN period of sessions for the creation of an international organization which will advocate the fight against drug trafficking.

Opening the meeting, Malmierca said that the truth of a revolution is measured by the attitude it takes toward its own errors. He then proceeded to summarize the trials carried out against commanders and officers of the Cuban Ministry of the Interior for their involvement in drug trafficking. He reiterated that, because of what occurred, Cuban law will be revised making it more severe. He added that, taking into consideration that the island could be used as a stopping point to deliver drugs to the United States, any aircraft not having permission to cross Cuban airspace will be shot down.

Malmierca said that from October 1980 to March 1986, 83 violations of Cuban airspace were detected; 328 drug traffickers were captured and 250 tons of marijuana seized; and a ton of cocaine and approximately 1,000 psychotropic pills were also seized, and this does not even include all the drugs confiscated from the drug traffickers.

Calls for Regional Solidarity

FL0108142989 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Colombian President Virgilio Barco has said that isolated actions on multilateral problems, such as the foreign debt and drug trafficking, are insufficient. Barco made the closing remarks for the second informal dialogue of Latin American and Caribbean foreign ministers and opened the 15th SELA [Latin American Economic System] ministerial council meeting, which will end in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia tomorrow [2 August].

For his part, Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, speaking at the above-mentioned foreign ministers' dialogue, made a call for solidarity with Panama. He also alluded to Puerto Rico as an issue that concerns the entire region, comparing it to the Malvinas. Likewise, he referred to the need for unity of area countries.

Approached later by the press, Malmierca reiterated Cuba's stand on the foreign debt and said our country maintains the same position it has always had regarding drugs. He added that the problem needs to be attacked from its three sides—production, trafficking, and consumption.

Telecommunications Network Studied by Nonaligned

FL0108150689 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] According to reports from Harare, Zimbabwe, a meeting is being held to create a work group that will be in charge of studying the possibilities of establishing an integrated telecommunications network for the Nonaligned Movement countries.

The meeting is in accordance with an agreement from the Nonaligned Movement Information Ministers' Second Conference that was held in Zimbabwe's capital in 1987. However, until now, there had not been a chance to hold this meeting.

The establishing of an integrated telecommunications network is an idea that arose from the non aligned countries' demands to create a new order of information and communications. Their goal is to preserve the sovereignty of countries faced with intervention in this sector.

This meeting is being held in Harare during the Nonaligned Movement's Inter-Governmental Council for Information.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Somalia
FL3107192789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The Governments of the Republic of Cuba and the Republic of Somalia have agreed to reestablish diplomatic relations. The two countries will opportunely appoint their respective diplomatic representatives.

Central Committee Members Greet Internationalists
FL0108134589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] A group of internationalist combatants that returned to the fatherland from Angola will be able to tell many stories. They are over 150 and all of them bear the Victory of Cuba and the People's Republic of Angola Medal, 1 the Ignacio Agramonte, 6 the Cuito Cuanavale Defense, and 49 the Distinguished FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] Service. Following are more details from the airport.

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] They arrived on Cuban soil with the greatest recognition that could honor them. They were humble and some had a half smile on their face. They were able to show the world the stock revolutionary men are made of when they defend principles.

Do not think they are so experienced. Some are barely 19 years old. Here they are on this evening before dusk with medals and decorations which are the fair recognition of their day-to-day courage and effort.

Sergio Corrieri, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and chief of its Culture Department, and Brigade General Nestor Lopez Cuba, among others, greeted them on behalf of political and mass organizations and of all our people.

Although they avoided the cameras because of their modesty, we wanted to show you these images [video shows soldiers stepping down from an aircraft and being greeted by a group of people in plain and military clothes] and also give our impressions of a time our courageous children are given the stature of heroes. Receive an eternal embrace from all of us. [end recording]

Book on Proceedings Against Former Officers
FL0108125089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] The fullest information on the proceedings against the group of former officers who committed grave crimes related to drug trafficking and other criminal acts has appeared in a book entitled "Case No 1: End of the Cuban Connection" [Causa Numero Uno: Fin de la Coneccion Cubana] which has just been published by the Jose Marti Foreign Language Literature Publishing House.

Over 30 original photographs, some unpublished, and the chronological charts used by the Prosecutor's Ministry are among the material appearing in the book. Opinion polls on the subject are also included.

"Case No 1" was put together in some 20 days thanks to the efforts of Jose Marti Publishing House workers who are now preparing the editions in English, French, Portuguese, and Russian which will be released soon.

Agreement Signed With State Committee for Prices
FL0108022389 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] A cooperation agreement was signed this afternoon between the Attorney General's Office and the State Committee for Prices. The agreement encompasses, among its tasks, the joint work of the two organizations for the control of the legality of the correct application of price policy.

[Begin Ramon de la Cruz recording, Attorney General of the Republic of Cuba, identified by caption] We are making a serious effort to strengthen our relations with the state [word indistinct]. In the past, we had something similar with the State Committee for Labor and Wages [name of committee as heard], and now, we have this relation with the State Committee for Prices. This is so important for the people's economy, the consumer, and protection of the consumer, and generally, for order, discipline, and legality in our country. [end recording]

Two Arrested for Illicit Manufacturing of Lamps
FL0108132489 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 2230 31 Jul 89

[Police report]

[Text] For dedicating themselves to the illicit sale and manufacturing of ceiling lamps, citizens Jose Maria Piloto Perez, resident of Varona Avenue No. 19178, (Cagdevila) neighborhood, Boyeros Municipality; and

Alexis Cardoso Perez, resident of A Street No. 316, between Alamo and Lindero Mendoza neighborhoods, Arroyo Naranjo Municipality; have been detained by Havana police units.

Upon searching Alexis Cardoso's house, over 1,000 plastic petals [as heard] and little wheels for manufacturing lamps were found by the police. Also found in Cardoso's house were 88 fretsaw blades, 102 plastic hair barettes, a home-made machine to manufacture various articles, and other items including a box with granulated plastic which is the basic material used in making the various items that were later sold for profit.

At this time, the accused of this economic crime are in provisional prison waiting to meet with the tribunal that will carry out the oral hearing and impose the adequate sentence. Nevertheless, the people have already declared them guilty of living as parasites in a workers' society.

Antigua and Barbuda

Constituencies To Hold By-Elections on 17 Aug

FL3107133189 Bridgetown CANA in English 1817 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] St John's, Antigua, July 30, CANA—By-elections in 7 of the 15 constituencies in Antigua and Barbuda will be held on August 17, new Supervisor of Elections Alvin Emmanuel has announced. Emmanuel, who took up his appointment on July 13 following the retirement of Keithley Hill who figured in the controversial March 9 general elections, said nomination day will be August 4.

A writ giving notice of the by-elections was issued Saturday. The by-elections are as a result of the resignation of six ruling Antigua Labour Party (ALP) candidates last Tuesday after their elections to the House of Representatives was challenged by unsuccessful candidates of the opposition United National Democratic Party (UNDP).

On June 30, a high court judge here ruled that the election of another ALP candidate, Henderson Simon in the St John's City West Constituency, was invalid. The judge was at the time ruling on a petition filed by the UNDP candidate for St John's City West, Donald Halstead, who cited a late start in polling, a shortage of ballot papers and an extension of voting time by hours as irregularities in the rules governing an election. But it is not known whether Halstead, a former government minister in the defunct Progressive Labour Movement (PLM) government from 1971-76, will contest the by-elections because he is in England pursuing a law course.

The ALP has already announced that it will be sponsoring the same seven candidates for the by-elections that won their seats during the general elections. They are Vere Bird Jr, St John's Rural South; Hilroy Humphries, All Saints West; Eustache Cochrane, All Saints East and St Luke; Adolphous Freeland, St George; Molwyn Joseph, St Mary's North; Hugh Marshall, St Mary's South; and Henderson Simon, St John's City West.

However, the UNDP and the left-wing Antigua-Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM) has yet to confirm whether or not they will contest the by-elections.

Under the Antigua and Barbuda Constitution, if there is no opposing candidate, the seven ALP candidates will be re-elected unopposed.

Bahamas

Privy Council Upholds U.S. Extradition Appeal

FL2807182789 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The Privy Council handed down its judgment in the appeal case of the Government of the United States versus Frederick Nigel Bowe. The court ruled that the appeal brought by the United States Government should be allowed and the appeal brought by the respondent, Mr Bowe, be dismissed. This means now that the extradition case involving Mr Bowe can now proceed. The council says it will give its reasons for the ruling sometime in the future.

Barbados

Central Bank Notes Slow Economic Growth

FL3107155289 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The Barbados Central Bank says inflation will double and economic growth will slow this year. Central Bank Governor Kurleigh King has forecast a 2 percent economic growth rate this year compared with 3.5 percent last year. He blames poor agricultural performance for the slowdown. Mr King says inflation should reach 6 percent by year's end.

Dominican Republic

Government Doctors Agree To Continue Strike

FL2807153789 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Doctors say they have decided to continue their 22-day strike for higher pay. The General Assembly of the Dominican Medical Union unanimously agreed yesterday to continue its nationwide doctors strike.

Organizers say the strike will go on indefinitely until their demands for better wages and living conditions are met. The strike involves an estimated 5,000 doctors employed by government hospitals and demand, among other things, a 100 percent wage increase.

Grenada

Opposition Refuses To Support No-Confidence Vote

FL2807190489 Bridgetown CANA in English 1831 GMT 28 Jul 89

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, July 28, CANA—A no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Herbert Blaize seemed doomed to fail after the official opposition withheld its support on Friday.

The Grenada Parliament is to meet on August 4 when sacked Public Utilities Minister Dr Keith Mitchell is expected to move the motion. But opposition leader George Brizan told CANA that he and the other five National Democratic Congress (NDC) members of parliament would not support the motion. Brizan said that the move by Mitchell, who is political leader of the New National Party (NNP), was at variance with the NDC's own ultimatum given to Blaize to set a date for elections.

In a letter sent to Blaize on Tuesday, Brizan called on the prime minister to announce the date for voting within two weeks. He told Blaize that if he failed to comply, then the NDC would have no alternative but "to take such measures as we see fit to discharge our responsibilities to the people of the nation."

Blaize has essentially become a lame-duck prime minister after he sacked Mitchell and the NNP chairman Larry Joseph from the cabinet last week and announced that he was leading a faction of the NNP. Since then, Health Minister Danny Williams has resigned leaving only seven of the 15 MPS [Ministers of Parliament] in the government.

Brizan said that the timeframe given by the NDC to Blaize would not have elapsed in time to give support to Mitchell's motion during Friday's sitting of parliament. He said that Mitchell could not now expect the NDC to take action when the deadline given to Blaize is due to expire on August 9. "We have no choice but to wait for that deadline," said Brizan, a former minister in Blaize's administration. "We would be extremely irresponsible and opening ourselves to public ridicule if we are to go against our own position," he added.

Brizan rejected suggestions that the NDC's position could give the impression that it was colluding with Blaize—a charge being made by Mitchell.

"That is absolutely ridiculous. We are not colluding with Blaize. We have had absolutely no meeting with the government to discuss matters of a political nature like this," he said. According to Brizan the NDC has already named its full slate of 15 candidates for the next elections. The opposition leader also said that he had not even received a letter purported to have sent to him by Mitchell asking for support for the motion in parliament.

Mitchell's move comes against the backdrop of his sacking from government last Thursday by Blaize following months of infighting in the NNP government. The two had been at loggerheads since the party's convention in January when Mitchell replaced Blaize as political leader.

Apart from Williams, Minister of State for Women's Affairs Grace Duncan has been mandated by her constituent group to quit the administration but to remain as their member of parliament. But she has not yet resigned.

The life of the present parliament expires on December 28.

Motion Filed 'Too Late'

FL3107130089 Bridgetown CANA in English 1936 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, July 29, CANA—A motion of no-confidence in the administration of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize is not on the order paper for next Friday's meeting of the House of Representatives, political sources said. The sources said that the motion was submitted too late by former Minister of Public Utilities Dr Keith Mitchell.

With reference to the fact that the motion is set out in terms of a vote of no-confidence in "prime minister and his government" rather than "in the government of Grenada," Mitchell said this is "just a technicality." Before giving notice of his motion, he said he had "taken advice from legal people" and he would have to check with these people again.

"In this letter to me, Sir Hudson suggested that I have a word with him before the September meeting of the house and I will avail myself of this offer," Mitchell, the political leader of the New National Party said.

The opposition National Democratic Congress had already announced that it would not support the no-confidence motion at this time since it had already given Blaize an ultimatum to resign.

After sacking Mitchell from the cabinet, Blaize appeared to announce the formation of a new party but later said he was merely heading a faction of the NNP.

Duncan said she was resolved to throw in her lot with Mitchell.

"I have had overwhelming support from my constituents and it would be impossible for me to remain in government as a member of the prime minister's cabinet," Duncan said. Recent actions of Prime Minister Blaize have broken her confidence in his ability to hold the reins of the Grenada Government, she added.

Her resignation means that Blaize can only count on the votes of six of the 15 MPS [Members of Parliament].

Mitchell Says Police Intimidating NNP Members

FL3107134689 Bridgetown CANA in English 1619 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, July 30, CANA—Sacked Grenada Public Utilities Minister Dr Keith Mitchell says he is concerned about a decision by the police to search several supporters of his New National Party (NNP) for arms and ammunition on Friday night. According to Mitchell, about 40-50 party supporters were stopped on their way home and had their cars searched by the police following a meeting in the village of Corinth in the Rural St Davids constituency. "Our people are being intimidated," he told CANA.

Mitchell has pointed an accusing finger at Prime Minister and Minister of National Security Herbert Blaize who fired him from cabinet 10 days ago. He said that before the dismissal, Blaize had accused him of trying to bring into the party people who could create instability in the country. He said that even the parliamentary National Democratic Congress (NDC) had tried to give the impression that he was involved in corrupt activities.

"There seems to be a clear arrangement between both, that the number one enemy in the country today is Keith Mitchell", he remarked.

Mitchell said he was fearful that something could be planted on him to taint his character. He indicated that he would write to the acting police commissioner to express his "deep concern about that." " The police should not be used by politicians for their own whims and fancies to get at people," he said.

Mitchell said the NNP regarded the police action as strange since, before he was dismissed from government, no one associated with him was accused of being violent. He suggested that the police might be used increasingly by the government to get at NNP supporters.

The NNP leader pointed to the heavy police involvement Saturday morning to take possession of a government vehicle used by Minister of State for Women's Affairs Grace Duncan, who submitted her resignation the previous day. Mitchell claimed that the police visited Duncan's home in a "hostile manner" and sought to humiliate her in front of her own constituents.

The ex-government minister said that the NNP is opposed to violence and has been campaigning for sometime now under the theme of peace and unity. Mitchell has promised to bring a vote of no-confidence in Blaize's leadership during Friday's sitting of parliament. The NDC, whose vote is needed to get the required majority to topple the government, has already said it would not offer support to Mitchell.

Haiti

American Missionary Attacked on 30 July

FL0108135289 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] A young man with a machete yesterday morning attacked and wounded an American woman who has been providing services for 40 years on La Gonave Island. Fortunately, according to our correspondent Ajax Michel, this missionary was not killed. Here is Michel with further details.

[Michel] The big news here is a security problem seems to be growing. At approximately 0400 on Sunday, 30 July, a young man armed with a machete broke into the home of Miss (Rudrid Falk) in Anse a Galets and struck her twice on the head, once on the left side (?of the neck), and once on the right side.

According to several missionaries we contacted there, the thief broke a glass window, climbed up on a chair, and fell into Miss (Falk's) house while she slept. The machete blows awakened her. When she began screaming for help, the youth struck her a final machete blow to the head, believing he had killed the foreigner. Then he fled. The missionaries added that the man did not steal anything from the house.

We remind listeners that Miss (Falk) is an American who has been living peaceably in Haiti for the past 40 years. She came to La Gonave in 1954, where she has been a big help to the Wesleyan mission here. She taught Bible school.

After the incident, at around 0500, the new commanding officer of La Gonave district, Mr (Dibiche), accompanied by a justice of the peace, went to write up a formal report and arrest (Felder Charles), a watchman for the establishment. He was released temporarily a few minutes later. He is to appear before a judge this morning for questioning.

In the name of RNH [National Haitian Radio], we say to this team of missionaries: Be brave; and we wish Miss (Falk) a speedy recovery.

Pro-Peasants Group on Land Distribution Decree

FL3107164489 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 1000 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Excerpts] At a time when the Haitian Government is giving land for big projects with foreign companies, the government also says it is going to distribute land to small peasant farmers. However, Solidarity With a View to a Movement of Small Haitian Peasant Farmers says that the government claims it is going to distribute land, but that it has no more land to distribute. What's the story on government lands for small peasant farmers?

All the good government land is in the hands of big landowners. Thus, when it comes to land, only the big landowners have contacts with the government. The big landowners, (?in turn, lease land to) small peasant farmers for a great deal of money or (?take them on as tenant farmers, to farm) severely eroded government land.

Many rural sections in Haiti have no government-owned land at all. Also, big landowners claim to own a great deal of land that is actually government land. Thus, the crooked government is going to seize this opportunity to pass these lands off as private lands. [passage omitted]

The decree [of 14 July] does not say whether or not the government is going to oust the big landowners from government lands. If this is not done, the government is going to distribute the land in (Savane Desolee) [a very arid area near Gonaives], the eroded land on Morne Cabrit, and the (?salt flats around) Thomazeau.

The decree doesn't exactly say when the government is going to begin applying the decree, either. Thus, this it just something the government bigshots threw out casually.

What we foresee happening is: The magistrates will distribute the lands, with their own interests in mind, to other bigshots like themselves, to the local bigshots who campaigned in their favor to make them magistrate. The magistrates are going to use these decisions to campaign for themselves.

Since when have small peasant farmers had such good relations with the magistrates that the magistrates are going to help them obtain government land? Solidarity asks.

From among all the suffering of the small peasant farmers, the government will give two or three of them (?a little) land, and then Radio Nationale and Television Nationale will spread the news that small peasant farmers have been given government land.

Solidarity says that (?since the government knows that) it has no popular base, it made this decision in an attempt to win one from among the small peasant farmers.

Solidarity continues: Since there is not enough land for everybody, this decision is going to sow division among peasant families. The government is going to try to demobilize the peasants and stifle their demands.

This decision is a government maneuver aimed at allowing it to stay in power longer. Every time the government feels uncomfortable, it comes up with some decree. We small peasant farmers know very well that the government is not in the habit of acting in the interests of the small peasant farmers. Just look at the way the section chiefs treated small peasant farmers before and after they met with the head of the government at the National Palace! Just look at the way the Army is sweeping away and killing small peasant farmers in Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite, Labadie, and Savien. [passage omitted]

Since when has the government loved small peasant farmers so much that it makes this kind of decision in their interest? [passage omitted]

That was Solidarity With A View to a Movement of Small Haitian Peasant Farmers asking those questions. [passage omitted]

Democratic Movement on Land Distribution

FL0108143489 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpts] In a press release from the Ministry of Information and Coordination, the military government last week announced that an agreement had been signed between the Haitian Government and the international company called Caribe International Corporation under which the Haitian Government will give the company some land on Plantation Dauphin in northeastern Haiti. [passage omitted]

This government press release gave rise to much talk among the political class, and there has already been much reaction. Today, this matter was discussed by Mr Francois Latortue, leader of the Modelh/PRDH [Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti/Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti].

Mr Latortue thinks such a decision should be made by a legitimate, constitutional government, with the nation's Senate and Chamber of Deputies having studied the contract carefully beforehand. Mr Latortue feels the Haitian Government cannot, at the current juncture, sell Haitian land; and he asks that the government publish the text of the contract so that everyone can see what exactly it stipulates.

[Begin Latortue recording] Well, such decisions are usually made by legitimate constitutional governments. Even the people who contact the government would like such a contract to have the executive's approval and to have it passed through the legislature, so that it can (?have some support)—since one never knows what might happen tomorrow—so there won't be any problems with it later. This is the general practice.

In this case, this was not the way things were done. Of course, the matter of free ports is a common matter in all developing countries. [passage omitted] Thus, the idea is quite common. This is common practice. This, however, was apparently done in secret. [passage omitted]

I don't think the government could possible be trying—today, with everyone as alert as they are? —to sell Haitian territory. I mean, the government knows this would provoke considerable reaction in Haiti, and even

my party would leap up in protest. Everyone would protest. Therefore, I don't think the government would try to sell Haitian land. [passage omitted]

Nevertheless, I would like to see the decree, so that I could see where I stand. I would like to see if it is a matter of government lands. If the agreement has to do with privately-owned lands, if it involves expropriating people; ousting people, ousting peasants from land they have a right to cultivate, then it is a different matter. [passage omitted]

Thus, one would have to read the decree carefully before making a statement. Therefore, I am waiting for them to publish the decree. We of the Modelh/PRDH will issue a communique on the decree later. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Peasants Protest Arrest of Farmers in Jean-Rabel

FL0108131989 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1600 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Two small peasant farmers from the Cooperative Action Group were arrested between 24 and 27 July by (Alovil St-Vil)—section chief for Dubois, a communal section of Jean-Rabel—(Vilar-saint Metayer), (Adimet Devilus), and two assistants. More than 25 others had to flee. (St-Vil) is making these arrests without a warrant in the Dubois and Raymond communal sections of Jean-Rabel and these actions have been protested by 150 peasants from Mahotieres, which is the seventh communal section of Port-de-Paix.

In a press release, these 150 peasants declare: It is with great indignation that we have learned of the disorderly acts being committed in Dubois and Raymond by section chief (Alovil St-Vil) and two assistants. [passage omitted]

Explosion Reported in Port-au-Prince Area

FL0108142789 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in French 1100 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] There was a big explosion on the night of Friday, 28 July, in a neighborhood on the northern outskirts of Port-au-Prince. The explosion took place at around midnight on (Rue Barthelmy), near (Rue Pean). There were no victims, but the explosive charge strongly shook neighborhood residents. Evidence of the explosion was visible on two vehicles parked on (Ruelle Barthelmy) [street name as heard]. A Hyundai Pony car with the license plate no. XI 339 and a Peugeot with no license plate had their windows shattered and were pierced all the way through. Vestiges of the (?explosion) were noticed approximately one meter from the parked cars.

According to neighborhood residents, several shots were fired in the neighborhood a few minutes after the explosion.

When contacted this morning, a Port-au-Prince police official told us that the person in charge of information regarding this explosion was not present.

Youths Seek Departure of Canadian Priest

FL0108133989 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Excerpts] The situation is still a bit confused in Saint Gerard parish in Carrefour Feuilles, where a group of young churchgoers is demanding that the parish priest, Canadian national (Norman Sleiger), leave. [passage omitted]

Reporter Clarens interviewed two young people from Saint Gerard parish on this matter yesterday.

[Clarens] [Passage omitted] Unhappy about the way the Haitian priests assigned to Saint Gerard parish were transferred in October 1988 and January 1989, several members of the KPJ, Youth Pastoral Committee, are today demanding the departure of the Canadian parish priest. [passage omitted]

The young people reproach the Canadian priest for, among other things, dividing young Haitians and preaching a gospel not in keeping with Haitian reality (?which means) that these young people, the youth of the parish, are demanding liberation theology for Saint Gerard parish. (Oril Payen), presents their accusations.

[Begin (Payen) recording, in Creole] [Passage omitted] We, personally, do not have a problem with Father (Norman). We have a problem with the work of division he is doing in the parish. [passage omitted] We say this today, and perhaps many people will not understand it and will criticize us, but we are certain that in the long run they will come to see that it is not evangelization that is taking place (?in) Saint Gerard parish. Rather, it is Canadian colonization. [end recording]

These young people say their main concern is the development, both spiritual and material, of the members of Saint Gerard Parish, a development which they say cannot take place as long as there is a foreigner at the head of several thousand Haitian Christians. Therefore, they say no to certain foreigner missionaries. [passage omitted]

The Union of Christian Youth of Saint Gerard, born of this 3-day meeting of 13-16 July [not further identified], in the name of which these two young people spoke today, seems determined to obtain the departure of the Canadian priest of Saint Gerard's parish. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Seaga Accuses Government of Witch Hunting

FL3107133089 Bridgetown CANA in English
2028 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 29, CANA—Opposition leader Edward Seaga has accused the government of carrying out a "witch-hunting campaign" to discredit the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP).

The opposition's statement came against the background of revelations by the government of alleged financial irregularities involving former officials and executives of the JLP government from 1980 to 1989. Among the allegations were the existence of phantom companies within the structure of the state-owned Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica, financial irregularities at Things Jamaica and the National Housing Trust, implicating the former managing director, Holden Hammond. On Thursday, Labour Minister Portia Simpson spoke about the misuse of funds of the Canadian and American Farm Work Programmes, implicating a former minister of labour and a former permanent secretary in that ministry. A day earlier, local Government Minister Ralph Brown drew public attention to a cheque for 250,000 Jamaican dollars which was made out to Mike Henry, the member of parliament of Central Clarendon, from funds for a gully and drain clearing project and for which no supportive documents could be found. Henry was minister of culture in the former government.

The JLP statement noted that it strongly supported actions to weed out corruption in public life as long as the evidence was marshalled by law-enforcement agencies and not by politically motivated sources.

The opposition leader said that the JLP would condemn any attempts to use smear tactics by unsubstantiated allegations and innuendos aimed at conviction by press reports or statements made under the cloak of parliamentary privilege. The JLP will not be intimidated by "the present witch-hunting smear campaign against its members and will defiantly face any attempts to subdue its role as an effective opposition by political terrorism in whatever form," Seaga said.

Alcoa Management, Trade Union Reach Agreement

FL3107130189 Bridgetown CANA in English
1950 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 29, CANA—An agreement has been reached between the management of the Clarendon Alumina Works refinery of the Alumina Company of America and the union representing striking production workers at the company, according to radio reports. The reports said that the agreement covers the period January 1989 to September 1991.

Representatives of the company, the National Workers Union, and Labour Ministry officials were still working out the details of the final settlement, the reports added.

The strike at Alcoa began eight days ago when the 500 production workers rejected a 10 percent wage offer by the Alcoa management. The workers were demanding a 23 percent salary increase, with 11 percent in succeeding years of the contract.

The company has lost some 16 million Jamaican dollars since the strike began last Saturday.

Petrojam, Lagoven Discuss Crude Oil Purchase

FL3107222389 Bridgetown CANA in English
2053 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 31, CANA—Talks are underway here between Petrojam Limited, a subsidiary of the state-owned Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ) and Lagoven, S.A, the largest oil company in Venezuela on increasing the volume of crude oil purchased from Lagoven, according to press reports here.

Petrojam currently buys 12,000 barrels of crude daily from Lagoven under the San Jose Accord.

Other areas being discussed between the two companies include the exchange of personnel, use of Venezuelan manufactured equipment, and training opportunities in Venezuela for Petrojam's refinery personnel. Also being discussed is assistance for Petrojam's refinery expansion programme.

The Lagoven teams visit is a follow-up to the June visit to Venezuela by a Jamaican delegation led by Prime Minister Michael Manley and Minister of Mining and Energy Hugh Small.

Panamanian Official Seeks 'Moral Support'

PA3107165889 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Celso Gustavo Carrizo, president of the Panamanian Legislative Assembly, has arrived in Mexico to ask for the Mexicans' moral support to achieve, he said, the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from his country. The Panamanian legislator charged that the U.S. Government is economically attacking his country and is violating the Torrijos-Carter treaties by stationing 24,000 troops in the country when the treaties only authorize 12,000. According to Carrizo, the U.S. objective is to remain in the canal after the year 2000. He explained that the U.S. soldiers have gone out into Panama's streets to provoke citizens in an effort to find an excuse to carry out an invasion.

[Begin Carrizo recording] The U.S. soldiers in their tanks go into Panama City's streets, outside the military bases, to provoke the people so they can carry out an invasion. [end recording]

Carrizo said that efforts have been made to confuse the people abroad by using Panama's political situation to justify an invasion. He said that one thing is the problem of the U.S. presence and another very different thing is the internal political problem over the elections. The president of the Panamanian Legislative Assembly said the solution to the internal conflict only concerns the Panamanians while the problem of the U.S. interference requires moral support from other countries and international organizations such as the United Nations and the OAS.

[Begin Carrizo recording] We can solve the domestic political problem, which only concerns the Panamanians, through dialogue and concerted efforts. We need the fraternal support of other countries to solve the problem with the United States. [end recording]

Cardenas: PRD 'Serious Threat' to Government

PA3107215089 Paris AFP in Spanish 0027 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Report by special correspondent Gerardo Tena]

[Text] Morelia City, Mexico 30 Jul (AFP)—Former Mexican presidential candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas said today that the Mexican Government is trying "to make the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD, leftist) disappear, because "the PRD has become a serious threat" to "the government's electoral crimes."

Before thousands of PRD militants who filled the Melchor Ocampo Square to protest the suspected fraud committed during the local Michoacan State elections, Cardenas asserted that the government "has launched discrediting campaigns and has even threatened to strip our senators and deputies of their privileges," because they participated in recent roadblocking activities.

Before thousands of peasants, who arrived in Morelia City, Michoacan State, 450 km northwest of Mexico City from various parts of the country last night, Cardenas said: "Let them dare do that, let them dare!" [in reference to the threats against PRD senators]

According to PRD figures, the rally brought together approximately 800,000 people, although according to Federal Highway Patrol figures, there were no more than 20,000 people gathered at the Melchor Ocampo Square.

Cardenas said: "The PRD's democratic march is the most serious threat the government faces. For that reason, the government is determined to use all available resources to try to stop us."

Cardenas called on his followers to prepare for a long struggle and "to conduct large actions and mobilizations if necessary" to force respect for the vote in Michoacan.

According to the State Electoral Commission, the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] obtained 12 deputy posts and the PRD obtained 6 deputy posts in the 2 July elections. The PRD, however, claims to have obtained at least 15 deputy posts.

Cardenas, son of legendary Gen Lazaro Cardenas, who nationalized the oil industry in 1938, announced that the PRD will not participate in the Electoral College, which consists mostly of PRI members. On 15 August, the Electoral College will begin assessing the Michoacan State elections.

Cardenas said: "To participate in the Electoral College would be to legitimize fraud" and "to admit that the only choice for the opposition is complicity."

On 29 July, intellectuals, politicians, and university professors announced the creation of an independent tribunal of citizens to "promote the cleanliness of the election results."

The group of intellectuals urged other political parties to publicly show the election documents they have "to ascertain the truth."

At the rally, during which demonstrators did not stop shouting slogans such as "death to PRI" and "total rejection of the Michoacan election fraud," Super Barrio, a masked Mexican character who fights for the needy, said the PRD will start blocking roads throughout the country again if "the government continues with their closed-minded attitude."

In addition, a group of "Catholic PRD members" today published a letter asking the church "to make a statement against the fraud," since lies and the stealing of ballot boxes" are "a social sin." The letter was published in the local newspaper GUIA.

According to a Federal Highway Patrol report, there were no incidents during the rally that ended in front of the statue honoring Gen Cardenas, "the best president Mexico has ever had" as his followers describe him.

PRD Holds Peaceful Demonstration in Morelia
PA3107145389 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] There was anxiety yesterday about what might happen at the big rally the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] was to hold in Morelia, Michoacan State. Fortunately, there were no incidents and reason prevailed in the Michoacan state capital. As is known, there is an intense controversy in Morelia between the Institutional Revolutionary Party and the PRD over the results of the 2 July elections. They are disputing 18 deputy seats. The PRD held its peaceful demonstration yesterday in downtown Morelia.

The electoral college will be installed on 15 August and the discussions will then move there. This is an issue that is still under discussion. No final decision has yet been made. Based on consultations with their members and a review of their tally sheets, each of the two parties believes they won the state elections.

Belize

Prime Minister Announces General Elections

FL3107231889 Bridgetown CANA in English 2235 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, July 31, CANA—Political campaigning has begun in earnest since Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel announced on Saturday night [29 July] that Belizeans will vote in a general election on September 4.

The announcement was made at a Bze200-dollar-a-plate dinner and "ball" which was held in honor of the visiting prime minister of Dominica, Mary Eugenia Charles. Charles arrived here on Friday afternoon on a three-day visit at the invitation of Esquivel. While Esquivel had the opportunity to announce the date of the elections at last Friday's meeting of the House of Representatives, he chose to do so at the political rally and ball.

The chairman of the opposition People's United Party (PUP), said Musa, told CANA in a telephone interview on Monday that the party was expecting elections in early September. But he said he was "shocked" that the prime minister should have made such an announcement at a dance. "This shows the disdain that he has for the Constitution and for the National Assembly," Musa said.

The opposition in its weekend paper, THE BELIZE TIMES, said that for Charles to come to Belize to attend a political party dance then the people of Dominica must be trouble free. "Ms Charles would do better to stay at home and grapple with the intractable problems of Dominica. This is what she was elected for by the people of Dominica, not to dance with Manuel at a gala ball," the paper said.

Esquivel's United Democratic Party took office in December 1984 with a 21-7 seat majority after ousting the PUP which had ruled for 20 years.

El Salvador

FMLN Attacks Soyapango Civil Defense Post

PA3107152889 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Report by Francisco Benitez]

[Text] A Soyapango City Civil Defense post was attacked by FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] urban commandos with rifle and mortar fire last night.

Soyapango Civil Defense Chief Sergeant Mario Leyva reported that civilian Arnoldo Chavarria Linares, 31, was killed in the cross fire and that the Soyapango Civil Defense installations were partially destroyed.

Sgt Leyva also said that doors and windows of nearby stores and houses were destroyed.

The military report adds that the rebels attacked the Civil Defense post for 10 to 15 minutes from nearby houses, the doors and windows of which they destroyed.

The Soyapango Civil Defense unit did not report any Army or guerrilla casualties, although last night we were told that two Civil Defense members were wounded as a result of the guerrilla attack.

In addition, military sources told us last night that two suspected guerrillas had been killed in the attack. This morning, however, Sgt Leyva denied last night's reports.

Guatemala

Defense Minister on Italian Aircraft Purchase

PA3107215789 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Report on interview with Defense Minister Hector Gramajo by unidentified reporter in Guatemala City—date not given]

[Text] Guatemalan Defense Minister General Hector Gramajo has insisted on what he regards as the need to purchase two Italian-made military planes. According to some experts, the two planes would cost approximately 37 million quetzals. Defense Minister Gramajo said this weekend that the Guatemalan Congress continues to discuss the aircraft purchase.

[Begin recording] [Gramajo] I have not had the chance to fully explain the technical details and [word indistinct] of the aircraft to congressional Defense Committee members. In addition, General Godoy [not further identified] [words indistinct] provided details on financial aspects of the purchase to members of the congressional Defense and Communications and Transportation Committees.

According to a press report, leaders of the various congressional blocs and some other congressional leaders have requested a full explanation of the purchase. The congressional president recently canceled a meeting we had scheduled with him. If he invites me again, I would be very willing to give him information on this purchase, because this matter not only concerns the Armed Forces—specifically, the Air Force—but also the entire nation.

The Guatemalan Air Force has both a military mission and national duties to fulfill. The Air Force uses its planes to reach very isolated areas in our country, which have neither [words indistinct] nor agriculture. We help the Public Health Ministry carry out its work in those distant areas. In other words, the Air Force must fulfill its duties to the nation.

[Reporter] What are the specific purposes of those aircraft?

[Gramajo] These are heavy-duty aircraft similar to jeeps in that they are specially designed to land on distant, uneven, and unfinished landing strips. In other words, these aircraft can easily reach rural areas. In addition, I have been informed that the Italian Government decided to donate special fire-fighting equipment with these aircraft as part of the deal.

[Reporter] How much do the planes cost?

[Gramajo] I am not sure of the exact cost. I have heard some say that they would cost approximately 37 million [quetzals]. That price, however, includes the two aircraft, a shipment of parts sufficient for 3 years of operations, a package of training materials for pilots and mechanics, and a team of pilots and mechanics to serve as advisers for 3 years.

[Reporter] Minister Gramajo, what can you tell us about the armed incident that took place in San Lucas Toliman, Solola Department, on 28 July, in which a suspected rebel group attacked the local police station?

[Gramajo] The San Lucas incident is apparently linked to terrorist actions carried out in Santiago Atitlan, where a local fair is being held right now. We have guaranteed that festivities in Santiago Atitlan can proceed normally. Desperate to attract publicity, they [not further identified] thought that they could do what they wanted to do in San Lucas Toliman. We regret the casualties there, because, after all, they are also Guatemalans—although they are Guatemalans who are very far from having any ideals. In fact, those people are only interested in avenging ethnic differences. Complex studies have been made of those ethnic groups and the ethnic hatred and land ownership problems that provoke their actions. [end recording]

2 Killed, 11 Wounded in Grenade Attacks

PA3107190589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1731 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 31 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Seven grenade explosions in the Guatemalan capital between Sunday night and Monday morning left two dead, five wounded, and caused considerable property damage, the police reported today.

In the town of Escuintla, 57 km from the capital, unidentified men threw another grenade that wounded six others.

Since the heightening of the labor conflict between the state workers and the government last week, there has been a string of attacks that have left 3 dead and more than 15 wounded. Thus far, no group has claimed credit for the attacks.

Officials of President Vinicio Cerezo's government have blamed "ultrarightists" allegedly seeking to disrupt the country's democratic process for the attacks.

Last night's first attack took place in the northern part of the Guatemalan capital when a group of unidentified persons threw a grenade inside a night club, killing two persons and wounding three others.

Another grenade exploded at the entrance to a supermarket when workers were closing for the day.

According to Oscar Recinos, the supermarket manager, the explosions wounded two employees and shattered the windows of the supermarket and other nearby stores.

The security forces also reported an attack on the home of newsman Rolando Archila Marroquin, vice president of "Emisoras Unidas," who escaped unharmed.

Archila, who is also general director of "Patrullaje Informativo," a widely heard radio program, was official spokesperson for the military government of General Kjell Laugerud Garcia (1974-78).

The newsman said the attacks were in reprisal for the reports and commentaries transmitted on his program.

The other grenades exploded in different parts of the Guatemalan capital, damaging private homes and business establishments. Nobody was wounded in these explosions.

According to the police, the security forces were alerted to a black vehicle with tinted windows in which the attackers were riding. Despite an intense search last night, the police were unable to find the vehicle.

The building that houses the city municipal hall was also the target of a terrorist attack in which a "molotov" cocktail caused only minor damage.

Honduras

Azcona on Demobilization, Summit Topics

PA3107225089 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1815 GMT 31 Jul 89

[News conference with President Jose Azcona by unidentified reporters at the presidential office in Tegucigalpa on 31 July—recorded]

[Text] [Azcona] They [not further identified] believe—and I think that this is quite understandable—that the appropriate conditions must exist in Nicaragua before the contra demobilization can be expedited and before the contras leave for Nicaragua. From any standpoint, it would be to the advantage of both the United States and Honduras for the contras' return to Nicaragua to be a basic premise of the demobilization. That is what we will discuss in Tela. We have a draft plan calling for a review

of Nicaragua's internal situation. We want a completely impartial organization—it could be representatiaves from the EEC Council of Ministers or from selected countries—to assess the internal situation in Nicaragua and to submit its findings to the presidents. We can then ask for the creation of commissions to verify and supervise the contras' resettlement in Nicaragua.

[Reporter] Based on the U.S. Government's position and Nicaragua's actions, what are the upcoming summit's chances for success?

[Azcona] I believe that we need an assessment or a report by an organization that—as I told you before—is beyond reproach. If I say that the conditions do not exist, they [not further identified] can say that I am playing into the hands of the United States. The United States is disqualified from issuing a statement on this matter. If we find an organization or an ad-hoc commission to go to Nicaragua to verify matters there, and if that organization reports that conditions do not exist for holding elections, that the elections will be a farce, that there are no guarantees for resettling those who return to Nicaragua, and so forth, then our position would be different from what our position would be if the organization were to say that all the conditions exist, that these people can be demobilized, that they can return to Nicaragua with full guarantees that they will not be persecuted, and that the plots of land that were seized from them will be returned; most of these people are peasants. Therefore, the situation then would be quite different. The manner or method of demobilization would be a case [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Azcona] If conditions do not exist in Nicaragua and this is certified by some organization, the problem remains that these people will not voluntarily demobilize. We cannot force them to return to Nicaragua. In this event, we would have to look for third countries; we would have to wait for.... [changes thought] I do not know. As I have said, these conditions must be certified by those who are beyond reproach. We would be more than pleased if at some point the demobilization is in fact carried out and if they left for Nicaragua—that is, if the appropriate conditions exist there. The problem is, will they want to leave if those conditions do not exist? The problem is what should be done in such a case.

[Reporter] Mr President, which do you think would be the most appropriate international body to certify compliance with these regional agreements?

[Azcona] I think that the OAS and the United Nations would of course be the most qualified and suitable organizations for appointment to the verification and control commission to oversee the repatriation of the Nicaraguan fighters and refugees; there can be no doubt or disagreement about that. However, I believe that prior to the commission's appointment, some sort of ad-hoc evaluation must be made by some other organizations. This should be done by someone whom we can select on an ad-hoc basis to go there and issue a report for submission to us—the presidents—and then to the OAS and the United Nations.

[Reporter] Do you agree with [words indistinct] the summit, asking for the contra demobilization in order to support El Salvador's stand that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] should also be removed?

[Azcona] No. Look, Esquipulas II includes everything. Esquipulas II includes everything [repeats himself] regarding Central American problems. The Alajuela document also refers to everything, and so does the Costa del Sol document. It covers Nicaragua's democratization and the contras' demobilization, and stipulates that there should be no aid to irregular forces—by which we mean both the contras and the Salvadoran guerrillas. We refer to a refugee repatriation policy and to controversies among governments. This includes the suit [Nicaragua has filed against Honduras] at The Hague, which cannot fail to be entangled in the overall problem.

[Reporter] Mr President, there is a danger that when the contras [words indistinct] hand in their weapons, some youths—particularly Honduran youths—could be among them. To whom would they turn in the weapons? To Honduras, to the OAS, or to the United Nations?

[Azcona] The other day I said [words indistinct]. Therefore, there are no discrepancies between what the president of the Republic and the Congress has said. The truth is that their statements are not contradictory. I have been asked whether it could be the OAS. Well, yes, it could be the OAS. [Words indistinct] the president says that the weapons must be surrendered to the OAS. The Congress president asked, Why the OAS? Why not surrender the weapons to Honduras? That is not an issue. [Words indistinct] is something that affects everyone. This is not a unilateral problem; it is not a Nicaragua-Honduras problem; it is not a Honduras-contra problem. No, no, this is a regional problem, and all the presidents have agreed that it is a regional problem.

Therefore, if the presidents decide that the weapons should be turned over to the Honduran Army, in accordance with the Honduran Constitution, that would be great. If the five presidents say: No, the weapons will be surrendered inside Nicaraguan territory, but not to the Sandinist government, and that they should be turned over to an international organization, that would be fine with me. That is not a problem as some would like to believe. It is not true that there are differences between the heads of the Executive and Legislative Branches.

[Reporter] What if they want to turn in their weapons to Honduras?

[Azcona] If they wish to do so, then yes, we can accept the weapons. That is why we refer to voluntary mobilization. We must prepare the appropriate conditions so that these people will accept amnesty and demobilize. If conditions are not right, the contras may refuse to lay down their weapons. How do you go about disarming a person who refuses to lay down his weapons? If this is the case, then we would have another kind of problem on our hands—a fight.

[Reporter] What about an OAS armed contingent to protect the border area? Has that idea been rejected?

[Azcona] No, it has not been rejected. However, this will be up to the United Nations. We will support that proposal at the upcoming summit. We are willing to remove all obstacles that would prevent the arrival of that contingent.

[Reporter] Foreign news agencies are reporting that President George Bush is talking with the area presidents in an attempt to prevent the contra demobilization. What did you discuss during your meeting with the U.S. President [words indistinct]?

[Azcona] I told President Bush exactly what I have told you. [Words indistinct] what I have told you. I asked for verification, for an evaluation of the Nicaraguan political situation. I asked that the OAS and UN commissions oversee the process. What I have told you is what I told President Bush and what I will tell the other Central American presidents. We drafted a plan for submission and review, and, if the other presidents also have a plan, we are willing to study whatever plans they may present.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] upcoming summit?

[Azcona] Of course. We are the ones who are the most interested in demobilizing the contras—even more so than Nicaragua, which could use the contras as a bargaining chip. Nicaragua could easily say that since the contras are still active, they cannot offer full election guarantees. They could claim that since the contras are still active, they have economic problems [words indistinct]. Therefore, at this time, Honduras is the most interested in solving the contra problem.

[Reporter] If Honduras is interested in demobilizing the contras, then why is it asking that the Salvadoran rebels be demobilized concurrently? Do you not believe that...

[Azcona, interrupting] I am not placing conditions on this. I have already said that I am willing to help if a simultaneous demobilization is possible. There are two ways to handle the demobilization of an armed group: It can be done on a voluntary basis—because they are convinced that theirs is a lost cause and that there is no chance of winning, and if they have guarantees for their demobilization, then they will accept amnesty—or they can be forcefully demobilized and disarmed. That is something that Honduras has never wanted to do, because we do not want to shed Honduran blood in order to solve other country's problems. That has been our position, and that is why we have sought, through all means possible, that the demobilization be carried out without any bloodshed, much less any Honduran bloodshed.

[Reporter] Is everything ready to receive the Central American presidents on 5 August in Tela?

[Azcona] Everything is ready. The organization of the event is complete, and I believe that the summit will be a great success. We are providing them with excellent living quarters. We are fencing off the airport, and the freeway is being cleaned. The fence will not be torn down after the event. The money that would have been spent on dismantling the fence will be spent instead on repairs, because we feel that that airport can be used for small and twin-engine aircraft. This could help promote tourism to Tela's beaches. There are very few beaches in the world comparable to the beaches in Tela. This will help promote tourism.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Azcona] I believe that [words indistinct] weapons are being sent to El Salvador. The Salvadoran rebels must be getting their weapons from somewhere. They have been fighting for years, which would be impossible without weapons. They are getting them from somewhere. It is believed that the weapons reach them by sea, and Honduras has many corridors that could be used to supply weapons to El Salvador. We have gradually cut off access to these corridors, but there are still some corridors that could be used for those purposes.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] that the Sandinist government withdraw its charges against Honduras before the International Court of Justice at The Hague?

[Azcona] We have asked that this be done many times; these have been political requests. We feel that to solve Central American problems, these charges must be dropped.

[Reporter] Some groups say that Honduras has become the guardian of Central American interests in Central America [as heard] and that Honduras is receiving no assistance, has been left alone, and receives no economic assistance.

[Azcona] Do you mean Central American or U.S. interests?

[Reporter] U.S. interests.

[Azcona] Repeat the question. You spoke of Central American interests?

[Reporter] It is being said that Honduras has become the defender of U.S. interests in Central America, that the United States does not want to give you economic aid, and that it is a poor ally.

[Azcona] This tendency to say that U.S. economic aid means that an arrangement must be reached with the IMF is something that we have often denied. We have said that this does not make any sense because, in the past, without having reached an agreement with the IMF, we have had U.S. aid; the U.S. Congress, when it approved funds for the economic stability of our countries, did not condition aid on our reaching an agreement with the IMF. I completely reject this alleged link between U.S. aid and the IMF. This notion has been promoted by the Honduran private sector, which has been acting completely irresponsibly in this regard. The private sector has been issuing statements not based on what the government says, but based on the opinions of some U.S. AID employees or officials—opinions we do not accept as valid.

[Reporter] Mr President, how do you view the election campaign now that we are approximately 4 months away from the elections? Some say that the campaign is becoming heated and that it could get even more heated.

[Azcona] The last campaign—fortunately for the National Party of Honduras [PNH] candidate—was an easy one. The Liberal Party of Honduras [PLH] faction within the government directed its attacks against the nominee of the party's other faction—specifically, against me. Therefore, [former PNH presidential candidate Rafael Leonardo] Callejas had it easy. I offended neither my party's presidential candidates nor the PNH candidates, among whom the strongest was Callejas. I abstained from attacking anyone.

Now the confrontation is between the two parties. The PNH candidate recently complained about being the object of very strong attacks. The PNH, however, is forgetting that it, too, is launching very strong attacks. They are also attacking me, although I have treated them well. I must respond. It is not that I am becoming a PLH political militant. Nevertheless, I have the right and the obligation to defend myself, because otherwise people may start to believe that the PNH is right and I am wrong.

I can tell you something else: During my administration—during these 3 years and 6 months of my administration—we have accomplished more work than all the PNH administrations have accomplished throughout Honduran history. We have accomplished more than [former presidents Tiburcio] Carias did in 16 years, [Juan Manuel] Galvez in 6, Julio Lozano in 2, and the rest. In a month we accomplished more than other PNH administrations used to accomplish in 3 or 4 years. Our work is there for everybody to see. EL HERALDO editors cannot conceal this fact. We know that one of the newspaper's editors was a famous defender of Julio Lozano; Lozano and that editor, people like that, are very old-fashioned people. This cannot be hidden from anyone.

The Honduran people do not read EL HERALDO editorials. They see what has been done in their towns, their schools, their teachers' houses, the electricity system, and the roads that go through their towns. That cannot be hidden by anyone writing away in his studio believing that whatever he writes is true. Unfortunately, there are people who do not know Honduras and who have never been out of Tegucigalpa, but, nevertheless some newspapers publish their writings. They take a pill in the evening, and with that pill they believe that all problems will be solved.

[Reporter] [National Congress deputy] Oscar Melara says that if segments of society support a lempira devaluation, then it must be done. Meanwhile, Manuel Acosta Bonilla, [PNH political commission member] says that the Honduran economy could collapse within 45 days. Who is wrong, Acosta or Melara?

[Azcona] The Honduran people do not want a devaluation, and I am not going to devalue the currency. I am handling the situation quite well, and I do not see any collapse in sight. Honduras has dollars for petroleum, consumer goods, raw materials such as fertilizers and pesticides, and for industrial raw materials. It does not matter if dollars for luxury items cost 320 or 340 lempiras; that would not mean an economic collapse. This situation may lead to reduced consumption of imports; it is absurd for everyone to demand imported shoes, shirts, and silk ties. This situation must end, because Honduras has gradually [words indistinct].

Military Commander Promotes National Dialogue

PA3107204889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1510 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 31 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran Armed Forces Commander General Humberto Regalado Hernandez said today that the Honduran Armed Forces are promoting a national dialogue with the national leftist groups.

Gen Regalado Hernandez said: "The Honduran Armed Forces believe violence, which only leads to fratricide, does not solve any problems. The Armed Forces believe there is still time to avoid chaos in the country by holding a dialogue that should include the participation of the leftist groups."

Regaldo said: "Our intelligence reports reveal internal differences among the various local leftist groups are not as deep as those among leftist groups in some neighboring countries."

Gen Regalado added: "There is still time to avoid intolerable violence from taking over Honduras. If the leftist leaders love this country, they will agree to sit and talk with us and with the rest of our society's groups."

Without releasing possible dates for the beginning of the dialogue, Gen Regalado said that the dialogue "will be held soon. We are working hard at preparing the dialogue so that it leads to specific objectives attainable within a reasonable time, thus preventing it from becoming just a simple exchange of views."

Firm Stance on Contras Urged at Summit
PA3107200589 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1235 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Station commentary: "The Demobilization of the Contras and Bush's Pressures"]

[Text] There are great expectations regarding the presidential summit that will take place in Tela, Atlantida Department, from 5 to 7 August.

Until the middle of last week, everything was going smoothly in this new peace effort, which has been postponed on three occasions since the last presidential summit held in Costa del Sol, El Salvador, on 13-14 February of this year. However, there is a dark cloud threatening this new peace effort.

We are referring to the meeting of Central American deputy foreign ministers held in Guatemala to prepare for the Tela summit, which ended Friday without an agreement due to a confrontation between El Salvador and Nicaragua on the subject of the demobilization of rebel groups in the area. El Salvador has attributed the failure of that meeting to Nicaragua's inflexible and obstructionist position, because it refused to include the Salvadoran guerrillas in the demobilization plan. Meanwhile, the Nicaraguans have accused the Salvadorans of using blackmail and trying to prevent a successful conclusion of the Tela meeting with that request.

There is no doubt that even prior ot the Salvadoran Government's proposal, the topic drawing more attention locally and abroad was the demobilization of the contras currently stationed in Honduras. A plan for dismantling the anti-Sandinist rebels was approved last Wednesday by the National Security Council. The Honduran Government will not disclose the details of the plan until the document is discussed and negotiated with the other Central American nations.

In this regard, President Azcona has said that it is not exclusively up to Honduras to implement the plan, but that it must be a joint action by the five Central American governments in light of the Tesoro Beach commitment, which called for promoting within 90 days the demobilization, relocation, and repatriation of the contras stationed in our country in exchange for an intensification of the democratization process in Nicaragua.

Shortly after the Honduran Government approved that plan, there were different reactions to it. For example, on 27 July, the UN Security Council issued Resolution 637, which demanded an end to military aid for irregular groups of any ideology. Although the U.S. delegation supported the UN resolution, on that same day international media reports said that President George Bush's position is that the contras will not be dismantled until there is real democracy in Nicaragua. According to international reports, President Bush reportedly discussed the matter with his Honduran counterpart, who assured him that he will not renege on his commitments with the United States on Central America.

Apparently, there is a contradiction between U.S. support for the UN resolution and the reports citing President Bush's statement against the demobilization of Nicaraguan contras. However, it is more likely that Bush's position reflects the opinion that prevails within the U.S. Government. This has been made clear through various statements made by members of a contra delegation that recently met with the presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Costa Rica. During those meetings, the anti-Sandinists reiterated that they will not agree to a possible demobilization and relocation of their troops, and much less will they agree to deliver their modern arsenal.

President Azcona has not yet made any specific comments regarding the statements attributed to President Bush and the contra commanders. However, we can assume that his position is reflected in what Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras said during a news conference held on 28 July.

On that occasion, Lopez Contreras said that Honduras will proceed with its plans for the contras' demobilization, even if it goes against the Bush administration's plans.

However, coinciding with the Salvadoran Government's position that wrecked the deputy foreign ministers meeting in Guatemala and is now casting shadows over the Tela summit, Lopez Contreras stressed that the initiative of the five presidents includes the dismantling of all insurgent movements in Central America.

It became evident this past weekend in Guatemala that this could become a bottleneck for the Tela presidential summit, since Nicaragua does not accept the establishment of a connection between the contras and the Salvadoran guerrillas, as proposed by the Salvadoran Government. We hope that this obstacle which threatens to dash the hopes created by the upcoming Tela summit can be satisfactorily solved at the foreign ministers meeting in Guatemala.

As far as Hondurans are concerned, the most important point is that our government should go to the Tela summit determined to promote the contra demobilization plan approved by the National Security Council. In that regard, it should not be intimidated by President Bush's pressures or by the contra threats of not complying with the resolutions of the summit that is about to take place.

The United Nations has already endorsed the Honduran Government's demobilization plan in its resolution issued last Wednesday. As we know, it will support any efforts leading to a firm and lasting peace in the region adopted by the Central American presidents in Tela.

In addition, even though Honduran officials may say that the withdrawal of the contras from our territory is a matter that pertains to the five Central American countries, the truth is that we Hondurans have experienced the negative effects of the presence of that other army. As an example, our compatriots in El Paraiso Department, particularly those who live in communities close to the border, for more than 8 years have been victims of a war that is not ours, and they have had to cope with the outrages of a military force created, maintained, and armed specifically to support U.S. interests in the area. The Honduran Government, therefore, should not worry about what President Bush thinks about an indefinite contra presence in our country. After all, we Hondurans are the ones who must deal with the high crime rate resulting from the contras' wrongdoings, whether they are fighting the Sandinists or involved in a truce, as they are now.

Above all, we must not forget that, at least by law, our Constitution states that we are a free, sovereign, and independent nation. Therefore, we will not be subjected to foreign intervention, such as the attempts to sabotage the contra demobilization plan to be discussed at the Tela presidential summit.

Nicaragua

Government Bars U.S. Congressmen From March

PA0108032689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0019 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Managua, 31 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Government prevented four U.S. congressmen from attending an opposition march that took place yesterday in Diriamba, in the southeastern part of Nicaragua, the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA reported today.

The delegation of U.S.congressmen includes Michael Parker, a Democrat, and Melton Hancock and Jon Kyl, both Republicans.

The Interior Ministry "denied" the congressmen a permit to attend the opposition march as observers. The permit had been requested by the chief of the U.S. congressmen's delegation, David Dreir, who arrived in Managua last Saturday, the newspaper added.

The march, that was held on Sunday in Diriamba, had been convened by the opposition Social Democratic Party (PSD).

The delegation of U.S. congressmen is touring Central America.

Ortega Holds 'Face the People' at Ceremony

PA0108044389 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 31 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] President Daniel Ortega today characterized as "detente" the relations between the government and the Catholic Church. He said this while affirming the revolution's firm respect for religious beliefs. He also reported that in countries described as "democracies" by the U.S. Government, more than 60 priests, nuns, and bishops have been murdered.

One of Ortega's remarks that drew the most applause from the approximately 350 Christians from over 20 countries who had gathered at the Barrio Larreynaga Parish Church for a eucharistic ceremony and a Face the People meeting was when Ortega said: "I have never stopped being a Christian." He called for a maximum of solidarity, particularly from the U.S. people, "because we are about to reach peace," and only the U.S. people can make their rulers change their minds.

Daniel Ortega, Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, Presidency Minister Rene Nunez, and other officials participated at 0930 yesterday morning in a mass held in an open field with Mexican bishops Msgr Sergio Mendez Arceo, Jose Llaguno, and Samuel Ruiz and approximately 50 priests of various nationalities. The ceremony and meeting served to officially close the VIII Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero International Meeting of Christian Solidarity.

One of the many beautiful statements made by the visiting Christians who admire the Nicaraguan revolution was: "There has never been such a strong sense of the church in any single country." The president said that in Nicaragua, the church and state "have had political clashes, but never religious confrontations."

Remarks on Contra Issue

PA3107184289 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] President Daniel Ortega met this morning with more than 250 participants in the eighth Oscar Arnulfo Romero Christian Solidarity Meeting. He criticized the interventionist attitude of the U.S. Government, which wants to prevent the removal of the contras from Honduras.

[Begin Ortega recording] It is clear that the United States continues to hinder the peace process. It continues to affect the peace process. We are only a few days away from a new meeting in Honduras, and the United States is working actively to sabotage that meeting so that an agreement to get the contras out of Honduran territory will not be signed. In this way, Honduras will continue to violate international laws. The United States will also continue to violate international laws and show disrespect for the Nicaraguan people's right to live in peace.

The Honduran Government has drafted a document for the removal of the contras. The document practically ignores the agreement that the Central American deputy foreign ministers have already made. The document includes points that are in the interest of U.S. policy, that is, to maintain the contras in Honduras for an indefinite period. [end recording]

President Ortega urged the United States to promote the signing of an agreement to get the contras out of Honduras. He also asked the Honduran Government not to yield to U.S. pressure.

[Begin Ortega recording] By yielding to U.S. pressure, Honduras would be risking condemnation by the International Court of Justice. It has already been found guilty of violating international law. Honduras is not doing anyone a favor when it says it will get the contras out of its territory. It has an obligation to do so because it is committing a crime. [end recording]

The president closed this Christian meeting attended by members of the Christian communities of Nicaragua and 26 other countries. The delegates expressed their solidarity with the Nicaraguan Government. President Ortega attended a mass jointly celebrated by 15 Latin American bishops.

Tinoco on Pressure From U.S. Conservatives

PA0108142589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0144 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Managua, 31 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The Sandinist government today said it fears U.S. conservatives will pressure the Central American heads of state into "freezing" the dismantling of the contra forces, which is a priority issue for Nicaragua.

Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco told several international news agencies today that U.S. conservatives "inside and outside the Bush administration" are jeopardizing the Central American summit, which is slated to be held in Tela (Honduras) on 5-7 August.

As an example, Tinoco said that the U.S. State Department had announced that the contras' office in Miami would be closed, but under pressure from the conservatives it later decided to give it new funds to continue operating.

He also said that U.S. President Bush has begun telephoning the Central American presidents to encourage them to "block" the demobilization of the contras based in Honduras.

In addition, the Bush administration has begun adopting "more conservative attitudes" lately with regard to its Central American policy.

The Sandinist vice foreign minister pointed out that he felt Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani's attitude of linking the demobilization of the Nicaraguan contras to a demobilization of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] "reflects" the pressures from the U.S. ultra-right wing.

Tinoco said that the pressures from the peoples in the area have to be taken into account if one wants to know what will happen at the summit meeting.

"This pressure is nothing abstract in Honduras because the issue has been adopted as a campaign theme by the presidential candidates of the two leading parties, despite their alliance with the United States," Tinoco stressed.

He recalled also that after the failure of the meeting of Central American deputy foreign ministers in Guatemala on Friday, the Salvadoran Government stood alone with its proposal to establish a connection between the contras and the FMLN.

The area's foreign ministers agreed to allow their Salvadoran colleague to read the document at the meeting, but he did not do so since the issue could not be discussed, Tinoco said.

Opposition on PSD March; Call for Dialogue

PA3107222089 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Interview with Guillermo Potoy, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Text] [Reporter] The opposition was active this past weekend. The Social Democratic Party [PSD] held a march in Diriamba. They were also active in Matagalpa, Boaco, Managua, and other departments. Guillermo Potoy, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party, comments on the 30 July political march in Diriamba and the national dialogue:

[Begin Potoy recording] Yesterday in Diriamba, the PSD marched from the cemetery to the church clock where we closed our activity. Six party members—Santos Tijerino, (Francis Blandon), Jose Espinosa, Juan Bermudez, Alfredo Cesar, and myself—addressed the crowd.

The people responded very favorably to us. The party is pleased to see that the number of its members and supporters is increasing. This comes at a time when we are involved in an electoral process. We believe that the people will react in a similar fashion in the upcoming elections by voting for the opposition [words indistinct]. The people of Diriamba have said that they had never seen such a large demonstration and that this demonstration reflected the real strength of the opposition and the PSD.

[Reporter] Mr Potoy, a national dialogue has been called for this week. Is there optimism within opposition ranks? Will there be a meeting? What can you tell?

[Potoy] We are somewhat concerned about the invitations issued for the national dialogue. The National Opposition Union has a dialogue commission, but the government has invited all 21 legally-registered parties that currently exist in Nicaragua. Furthermore, the invitation states that this will be a continuation of the February dialogue. In February, the government issued bilateral invitations that were more like informative sessions, because President Ortega gave a speech to each party. We did not have an opportunity to exchange views.

Therefore, we harbor doubts and suspicions that this dialogue—which they claim is a continuation of the February dialogue—will involve another Ortega speech and not cover national and electoral problems that allow us to reach agreements on how to improve conditions for this electoral process, because it is currently skewed in favor of the Sandinist National Liberation Front. The membership of the Supreme Electoral Council reflects this imbalance.

We have made other major demands in the past. On this occasion we do not want to have to listen to another President Ortega speech instead of an actual national dialogue in an attempt to make people here and abroad believe that there is an ongoing dialogue in Nicaragua.

I hope that deed will match words this time, and that the two sides will actively discuss the most pressing problems that need to be solved to ensure that everyone feels able to cast their votes calmly and not under the pressure that currently exists. [end recording]

'Skeptical' About Dialogue

PA3107201689 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Opposition political leaders say they do not want to go to a dialogue just to listen. Commander Carlos Nunez has been replaced as government delegate to the dialogue by Commander Bayardo Arce, vice coordinator of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] Political Commission. Commander Daniel Ortega said yesterday that Arce will not act as deputy chief of the party but as the president's delegate.

Opposition political circles are skeptical about the way the dialogue will be held. The government has said it will not discuss any topics other than the implementation of the electoral and media laws; however, the parties of the National Opposition Unity are planning to make a number of proposals ranging from the reorganization of the Supreme Electoral Council to the abolition of the military service law.

Panama

Torrijos Tomb March Diverted Through U.S. Area

PA0108020189 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2141 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Panama City, 31 Jul (REUTER)—In an action apparently intended to dare the United States, Panamanian strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega [commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces] today headed a parade through a military base area reserved for U.S. personnel.

The parade took place at Fort Amador, a base located in this capital and administered by Panama and the United States. The parade was to commemorate the 8th anniversary of the death of nationalist leader Omar Torrijos.

Leading hundreds of officers and soldiers to Torrijos' grave located on the base, Noriega took an unexpected turn and marched through a golf course in a U.S.-administered area. The parade passed in front of houses occupied by high- ranking U.S. military officers.

Both Noriega and a spokesman for the U.S. Southern Command, headquartered in Panama, have refused to comment on this. [passage omitted]

Ritter: U.S. Military Intervention Imminent

PA3107210389 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1903 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Cartagena (Colombia), 31 July (DPA)—Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter said today in Cartagena, Colombia that "U.S. military intervention in Panama is imminent, despite the protests of our people and other Latin American countries."

Ritter, who is participating in the first political meeting of Latin American and Caribbean foreign ministers, added that Washington "has stepped up coercive actions in my country and maneuvers carried out by the Southern Command stationed in the Canal Zone are very frequent and suspicious."

The United States intensified its criticism directed toward the government of Manuel Solis Palma and strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega following the annulment of the May elections.

"I will report to the Latin American and Caribbean foreign ministers that armed U.S. intervention is imminent," Ritter stressed, adding that "Panama knows that it has the continent's support because what is at stake is the sovereignty of a fraternal nation."

On another subject, Ritter said that opposition parties in his country have apparently withdrawn from the dialogue to condition the negotiations "intended to seek a democratic solution to the Panamanian conflict."

Ritter said that the civic opposition, which has accused Noriega of conducting fraudulent elections, wants to "ignore the recent OAS resolution and validate the results of the 7 May elections."

The OAS proposed calling new elections to facilitate the transfer of power before 1 September.

"It is erroneous to believe that the OAS or Gen Noriega annulled the elections," Ritter told journalists who implied that the OAS accepted the annulment of the presidential elections showing "support" for the [Panamanian] regime.

Presents 'Evidence'

PA0108024089 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0156 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Cartagena, Colombia, 31 Jul (REUTER)—Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter has said that Panama presented films as evidence of what it described as U.S. military aggression against Panama to the delegations of 33 countries who participated in a regional meeting today.

"I have left in the hands of the foreign ministers a film documenting the physical aggression to which Panama has been subjected over the past week," Ritter told newsmen.

He added, after the meeting ended, that U.S. soldiers had occupied the Bridge of the Americas, the only link between Panama City and the rest of the country, and the Inter-American Highway, which links Panama to the rest of Central America.

Ritter added that U.S. helicopters flew over Panama Defense Forces (FDP) headquarters, and over the capital city, and that U.S. soldiers also carried out military maneuvers on the banks of the canal.

Panama has been accusing the United States of aggression since President Eric Arturo Delvalle was deposed after an attempt to remove General Manuel Antonio Noriega from his post as head of the FDP. This sparked the political crisis with which the country is now afflicted.

Ritter had said shortly before that he was pessimistic about a solution to the crisis and that the dialogue between the government and the opposition has reached an impasse.

"Before the third OAS meeting, I thought that there had been a note of optimism, but I could not speak with optimism now," he said.

OAS Comission To Resume Mediation 2 August

Cordovez 'Optimistic'

PA0108012889 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0036 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Quito, 31 Jul (DPA)—The OAS delegation to Panama, headed by Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez, will resume its mediation on 2 August, 4 weeks from the deadline for reaching a political agreement to allow an orderly succession following the end of Manuel Solis Palma's [Panamanian minister in charge of the Presidency] term in office.

The Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry tonight confirmed that Cordovez will go to Panama, adding that he is very optimistic about the possibility of achieving an agreement in Panama before 31 August.

A new administration is to be installed on 1 September, when the current regime's term ends. The presidential elections were annulled by General Manuel Antonio Noriega's [commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces] regime, presumably to prevent what appeared to be an overwhelming opposition victory.

The other three members of the mediating commission—the foreign ministers of Guatemala and Trinidad and Tobago, and the OAS secretary general—will join Cordovez in Panama on 2 August for the 4th session of their mediation efforts.

Representatives Arrive

PA0108143489 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 1 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares arrived in Panama last night to continue his national reconciliation mission to bring about an improvement of the country's economy.

The OAS secretary general arrived with Guatemalan Deputy Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera and Angus Khan, permanent Trinidadian and Tobagan representative to the OAS. Baena Soares said he has not received any complaints or demands from the Panamanian opposition.

Issues related to the current situation in the country will be discussed at the next meeting to be held in Panama City.

Guatemalan Deputy Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera said he is optimistic and that this is an opportune moment for an agreement among the parties.

The Guatemalan deputy foreign minister believes that some sectors have misinterpreted the OAS resolution, and he said that any confusion in this regard will be discussed at the next meeting.

Solis Palma Discusses Position

PA0108012489 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2336 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Interview with Minister in Charge of the Presidency Manuel Solis Palma by unidentified reporters during event marking the 8th anniversary of General Omar Torrijos' death at Fort Amador on 31 July—recorded]

[Text] [Solis Palma] The government, the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], and COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] are very clear in saying that we must sit down and talk. We have presented specific proposals for forming a national unity government to assume power as of 1 September. If no agreement is reached, if there is no chance to reach this agreement... [changes thought] I do not believe anyone can ask the OAS to explain something that is clearly established in the latest declaration issued by the president of the assembly.

[Question] [Words indistinct] Is the government still asking the opposition to sit down and talk?

[Solis Palma] We are doing this constantly; however, we want a dialogue without conditions. The only condition we have established is that our goal be our national liberation. This is not a private condition; it is a condition set by all Panamanians. However, private conditions must be discussed around a table, we must not be setting conditions before we sit down to talk. If those are the conditions that are going to be demanded, the future of the dialogue is very uncertain.

If the opposition does not sit down to talk, the government will continue with its plans. The fact of the matter is that power is in the hands of the government, the FDP, and COLINA. We cannot just give up power and surrender it. There is no reason for something like that to be done. If we do not reach an agreement, we will continue to rule.

[Question] Does this mean that there will be a government of national reconstruction?

[Solis Palma] A government of national reconstruction is an objective. The goal is to create a government that will improve the country's situation and help it overcome the critical economic, social, and political situation. We must do this with a national unity government or alone, but reconstruction must take place.

Importance of Dialogue Noted

PA0108004289 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2313 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Interview with Minister in Charge of the Presidency Manuel Solis Palma by unidentified reporters; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Solis Palma] If the opposition continues bent on conditioning the dialogue, then we are headed for failure of the dialogue itself. What I believe should be made clear is that the country cannot be without a government and that we are going to have to find a way to continue. The country must have its authorities and its legal and administrative structures to make progress and respond to the Panamanian people's needs.

[Question] What has been the most promising proposal?

[Solis Palma] There still has been no promising proposal. I have said that, in light of the current situation, I believe the parties involved should reach an agreement to allow the creation of a national unity government. If this does not happen, then there could be other suggestions, but these must be discussed very soon because the country cannot just be left adrift or without an exact idea of what will happen after 1 September.

[Question] What about students who are demanding a stronger position from the government and the opposition?

[Solis Palma] There can be no definite position until every possibility of an understanding among the parties involved is exhausted. Once these possibilities have been exhausted, the government will have to make a final decision.

[Question] The Panamanian opposition has practically placed conditions on its participation in the tripartite dialogue. What are your feelings about this?

[Solis Palma] We are going back to the same issue. We must sit down and talk without prior conditions. Solving the country's problems will not be possible as long as conditions are place on the dialogue.

[Question] [Words indistinct] amid U.S. aggression?

[Solis Palma] This is proof of the Panamanian people's determination and that [General Omar] Torrijos' ideas continue to prevail in this process of national liberation and in the continuing struggle of generations that began with the birth of the Republic.

Opposition on Conditions

PA0108015489 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Interview with Alfredo Ramirez, president of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] The government wants to give the impression that we are placing conditions on a dialogue. As [former opposition presidential candidate Guillermo] Endara has said, we have a list of questions that we want the OAS mission to explain to us. The reason for these questions is due to the fact that Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter has made some tendentious interpretations of the various resolutions issued by the OAS. His subjective interpretations completely distort what the OAS has resolved on several occasions, and this has forced us to prepare a list of issues that we want to discuss with the OAS mission members before the dialogue begins. However, these are not conditions, as the government makes it appear.

[Ramirez] The government has suggested a transition government that would call for new elections as a political solution. What is your opinion?

[Reporter] We are going to abstain from commenting on the formulas presented by the gentlemen of the executive branch. You know that the core of the problem is the transfer of true power, which is held by the Armed Forces, over to the civilians. As long as the Armed Forces do not present any pronouncement or present any formulas, we will not discuss any formulas that the gentlemen of the executive branch merrily present. It is a myth to say that the Armed Forces are part of the executive branch. The truth of the matter is that the executive branch is part of the Armed Forces.

Endara on Visit, Dialogue

PA0108033389 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Report by unidentified reporter on statements by Guillermo Endara, Civic Democratic Opposition, ADOC, leader and former ADOC presidential candidate; date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] A solution to the Panama problem depends on the OAS' explanation of alternatives, Guillermo Endara Galimany said. The leader of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance pointed out that before any dialogue can begin, the OAS foreign ministers and the OAS secretary general must first clearly explain the OAS 21st consultative meeting's resolution concerning Panama's case and possible solutions. Endara Galimany categorically stated that the dialogue depends on that explanation.

[Endara] "If all of the points on our agenda are accepted for discussion at the dialogue, such as [recognition of the results of] the 7 May elections, the departure of General Manuel Antonio Noriega [commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces], and full recognition of human rights, then we will attend the dialogue. However, if there is any objection to the inclusion of any of these topics at the dialogue, then we will have no other choice but to discontinue the dialogue."

Time is passing, and if no solution is reached by 1 September, what will the ADOC do?

[Endara] "We must be aware that 1 September is a key date for our constitutional existence. If, on 1 September, the president elected by the vast majorities is not inaugurated, then we will have chaos from a legal, political, and constitutional standpoint. The government—the military regime—would have to improvise a solution, which would be completely unconstitutional and completely against our legal and political traditions."

Endara Galimany emphasized that the opposition is prepared to take a stand on 1 September should there be a failure in the negotiations to solve the Panamanian crisis.

[Endara] "In due time, we would definitely have to do something. We will cross that river when we come to it."

The opposition leader also expressed concern over the possibility that some members of the OAS foreign ministers delegation might not be able to come to Panama this week to solve the crisis.

[Endara] "This is a big problem. We have to consult with our people, because if half of the foreign ministers cannot come to Panama, there will unfortunately be a very odd situation, and the visit would be very inconclusive."

PRD Official Criticizes Canal Authorities

PA3107151389 Panama City Domestic Service in Spakish 1100 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Benjamin Colamarco, secretary general of the Public Servants Front of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], has said that the Panama Canal Commission authorities are refusing to provide specific information to Panamanian Government institutions with regard to planning, the labor market situation, and the training of Panamanian personnel in the commission.

Colamarco condemned the U.S. Government's tactics since 1979, which are aimed at ignoring the spirit and letter of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. He also criticized the constant violations of Panama's sovereignty by the U.S. troops stationed in national territory.

Editorial Criticizes Policy

PA3107212889 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 31 Jul 89 p A-4

[Editorial: "The True Politicizing of the Panama Canal Administration"]

[Text] The leaders of several organizations linked to the Panama Canal have publicly questioned over the past few days the procedure the Panamanian Government has employed to recommend to the United States the Panamanian citizen that must occupy the post of administrator of that important enterprise as of 1 January 1990. The different statements made in certain news media have not hidden the organizations' fears concerning the future of the canal in the hands of a new administration. They allege they notice major political motives in the selection process, as well as in the Panamanian citizen recommended to that high post. They note these facts could lead the canal administration, during the next decade along a strictly political path.

The bias of those viewpoints are clear, as they indicate that the function of the Canal would, during the next 10 years, become trapped in a political cobweb. To prejudge an administration that must begin on 1 Janunary does not constitute a responsible, sane, and fair action. Far from being reasonable and justified, these views seem to stem from recalcitrant U.S. interests that refuse to accept the treaties which mandate transferring to Panamanian hands the administration of the Canal starting next year, and the entire passageway as of 1 January 2000. It does not escape attention that while these leaders rush to prejudge the administration of the canal in the hands of a Panamanian—charging in advance that it would be totally subservient to political interests—they maintain a guilty silence in the face of the truly politicized actions the U.S. Government has been brazenly implementing. Since the conflict with Panama began, U.S. presidents have involved the operations of the passageway in acts of revenge and reprisals against this nation.

The U.S. Government has used the Panama Canal as the most expeditious way to increase its aggression. That is seen in the freezing of the Canal's annual payments and the refusal to pay Panama—as the Torrijos-Carter Treaties require—the income tax of Panamanians working for that enterprise, to grant U.S. visas to various Panamanian members of the Canal's Board of Directors, and to accept the new administrator recommended by the Legislative Assembly. These facts clearly and unequivocally show that the United States is politicizing the Canal.

On this matter, the organizations' leaders have not issued a single statement. The appointment of top officials falls within the purview of the corresponding political bodies in Panama and the United States. We are certain the Panamanian Government will respect the professionalism that handling the Canal as of 1 January 1990 entails. All of us are aware of the negative results politicizing canal operations can have on the canal and on the country. However, the U.S. leadership has not considered the consequences of politicizing the canal administration and using it to take all sorts of reprisals against our people. We have to be fully confident Panamanians will manage the Canal without the meddling of partisan politicking and local bad practices.

MOLIRENA Protests Penonome Mayor's Ouster

PA2907123789 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Communique issued by the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, MOLIRENA, on 28 July; place not given—read by MOLIRENA Secretary General Guillermo Casco Arias]

[Text] Penonome District Mayor Pedro Fernandez has been dimissed from his post. The dismissal decision was made by the progovernment Penonome Municipal Council, in flagrant violation of all current legal norms. The municipal council's action was taken following orders from higher authorities. This action constitutes yet another insult against decency and the climate of tranquillity in which Panamanians want to live.

We urge the proper authorities to rescind the aforementioned decision and to contribute to the creation of a favorable political atmosphere for the upcoming dialogue and the subsequent attainment of a solution to the country's crisis.

Mayor Fernandez' forceful dislodgement from his office, the occupation of the mayoral office by progovernment mobs, and the arbitrary arrest of five Penonome District corregidores can only be interpreted as a flaring up of the regime's hard line and a prelude of very gloomy days ahead in national life.

Commerce, Industries Minister Assumes Post

PA2807233889 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2313 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The new commerce and industries minister, Elmo Martinez Blanco, was sworn in today. Martinez Blanco had been serving as Panama's ambassador to Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland. Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, attended the ceremony.

Elmo Martinez Blanco replaces Isaac Hanono, who resigned his post.

Youth Group Commemorates Torrijos' Death

PA3007030789 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] On Monday, 31 July, we will commemorate the 8th anniversary of the death of Commander Omar Torrijos, leader of the Panamanian decolonization process. To mark this anniversary, the People's Revolutionary Youth marched with great nationalist spirit to render emotional homage to Omar's ideals. They departed from the Ascanio Arosemena Plaza [in downtown Panama City] and marched to the mausoleum, where the military officer is buried in the reverted area of Amador.

[While announcer reads news item, video clips show the marchers carrying an effigy of U.S. Army South Commander Brig Gen Marc Cisneros and chanting various slogans such as: "Not one step backward;" " Yankee assassins, we will bury you in the land of Torrijos;" "Listen, Cisneros, you will leave first;" "For Latin America, everyone on the alert"]

To the shouts of "They sure as hell will leave" and other peoples' slogans, about 100 youths—including small children—patriotically participated in this mobilization that toured the reverted areas of Amador. The Torrijist youth marched chanting slogans as they went along, carrying Panamanian flags and posters with slogans such as "We will win or die" and other patriotic messages. Members of the Liberal Party Youth, of the People's Party of Panama, of the Torrijist Vanguard, and other youth organizations walked up to Omar's mausoleum, placed flowers, observed a minute of silence, and then held a rally. There were several speakers, and all coincided in swearing at the tomb of Omar Torrijos that they will not take one step backward in recovering full sovereignty for the country.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] As of now, our youth will be on the streets, combat-ready, and we will get the Yankees out of our Canal. We will kick them out, one by one, in the year 2000. Torrijist greetings to all: Omar is not dead; he lives with his people. [crowd chants: Omar Torrijos Herrera, present] [end recording]

National Institute Classes To Resume 1 August

PA3107193089 Panama City Radio Exitosa in Spanish 1710 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Report by Maribel del Carmen Saldana Ortiz]

[Excerpt] Classes will resume tomorrow, 1 August, at Panama City's National Institute. The decision was made following a 3-hour meeting held today with student leaders, parents, teachers, and the school principal. [passage omitted]

Argentina

Menem Optimistic on Economy, Inflation Rate

PY3107152089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1432 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 31 Jul (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem affirmed today that "things are going well despite all the problems we have to face. Fortunately, in these 25 days of government we can see that salaries are recovering their buying power, and very likely by the end of August salaries will be at a level of $70-80, compared with the average salary of $18 when we assumed the government."

The chief of state noted that "moreover, it must be taken into account that inflation will be much lower by September and that next year we might have an annual inflation rate of 15 percent." [passage omitted]

Menem made those remarks from his automobile as he was leaving his private residence on Posadas Street at 1000 to go to Government House.

On another occasion, speaking to Radio Continental, the nation's president affirmed that "there is no possibility of a social explosion," and added that "through social actions being implemented, we are helping the most needy sectors, trying to guarantee jobs."

The president also admitted that "the strong readjustments in public utility rates were inevitable," adding that "we are also readjusting salaries through a policy of agreements."

As for the cessation of hostilities with Great Britain, the president affirmed there are just "rumors" going back and forth between the two countries involved, although he reasserted the "wish to put things in their place, safeguarding the concept of sovereignty."

Rapanelli Says Some Price Controls To End

PY3107223689 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 31 Jul 89 p 7

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN)—Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli yesterday said that prices would be freed as from September 15, at least for certain products, instead of counting out the full 90 days from the July 17 price agreement.

He also claimed that the economy could heat up slightly in August as a result of a 100 percent increase in purchasing-power. Rapanelli promised single-digit interest rates in August, virtually zero inflation in September and the disappearance of the fiscal deficit in September or October.

Rapanelli further pledged that the economy would be remonetarized from the present money supply (M1) of 350 million dollars to 2.5 or three billion (thousand million) dollars by the end of the year. The minister quantified the internal debt at two billion dollars "plus government bonds." [passage omitted]

Health Minister Outlines New Food Plan

PY3107230289 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 31 Jul 89 p 7

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN)—President Carlos Menem will today sign a decree earmarking funds for a food distribution plan which will help around a million poverty-stricken families.

The programme will be launched on August 15, when each of the households in question will receive a 20,000-austral coupon to be traded in for 19 family shopping-basket products. In return, the head of the family will carry out four or five hours of community work.

Shop-owners, for their part, will be able to cash the coupons at Banco Nacion or provincial banks.

Details of the plan were revealed on Saturday by Health Minister Julio Corzo during a break in cabinet talks.

The minister said government authorities and supermarket owners would be meeting today to establish "a framework of reference for the prices of the 19 articles available for each coupon."

He also anticipated that Menem would on Thursday announce the much-awaited programme to distribute free medicine to the poor.

The government intends to finance most of its solidarity schemes with a 2.5 percent tax on the sales of the 1,000 leading national companies, as stipulated in the Social and Economic Emergency draft law. [passage omitted]

Deputy Urges Tougher Stance Against 'Cartel'

PY3107130989 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1946 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Jul (TELAM)—Justicialist Deputy Eduardo Varela Cid has denounced the fact that the "Medellin Cartel" has set up offices in Buenos Aires Province and warned that drug trafficking "will be a very serious problems in Argentina in a short time."

The legislator said that the powerful gang, which he called "one of the most powerful in the world," does not manage "plantations in the country" but uses the country as a base for drug trafficking with Europe.

According to Varela Cid, a recently elected member of the Chamber of Deputies Commission on Drug Addiction, "in a few more years a citizen who wants to become a deputy or a journalist in Argentina will first have to ask for permission from the drug lords, as is currently the case in Colombia."

According to Varela Cid, "judges say that present laws are not sufficient to keep drug traffickers off the streets" and, therefore, Congress should study new legislation severe enough to "include the death penalty."

The deputy from Cordoba told TELAM that Congress should draft a program to combat the corruption generated by the money of these criminals." [quotation marks as received]

Varela Cid reported that his commission is working on an international legislators conference, which is tentatively set for the middle of next year in a still undetermined location. Legislators from Latin America, Europe, and the United States would attend the conference to analyze a plan called: "Debt, Democracy, and Drugs."

Varela Cid said: "We cannot talk about drugs without talking about the foreign debt" because the debt has drastically affected our population's standard of living and has consequently "lowered the people's moral threshold." Varela said: "It is a waste of time to talk about democracy with weak governments because they cannot control their territories or face the drug traffickers' armies."

Varela said that one of the objectives of the conference would be to work out an international agreement for the "immediate extradition" of drug traffickers. Varela added that the agreement should result in an "overall policy of effective action" to combat this scourge.

Brazil

Justice Minister Resigns Over Economic Policy

PY0107003889 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Justice Minister Oscar Diaz Correa has tendered his resignation. Because he does not agree with the government's economic policy, jurist Oscar Diaz Correa, 68 years old, today stepped down from the Justice Ministry he has been heading since January 1989.

In a news conference he held after presenting his resignation to President Sarney, the former minister stated that he wanted to leave the ministry because he disagreed with the economic policy.

[Begin Diaz recording] I am leaving the Justice Ministry because I do not agree with the government's economic policy. Three months ago, when the inflation rate increased from 7 percent to 9.44 percent, I said that rate was unjustifiable. When it increased to 24.83 percent, I expressed my disagreement to the ministers in charge of economic matters, to the Civil Household Chief, and to the SNI [National Service for Intelligence] chief. I told them that if economic officials cannot control inflation and return it to reasonable levels, I would not continue with the government. [end recording]

The justice minister rejected the possibility of running for president of the Republic in the next elections. He said that although he is leaving the government, he will continue to be President Jose Sarney's friend.

The current Justice Ministry secretary general, (Pedro Xavier Matosi), will be in charge of the Justice Ministry temporarily.

Chile

Latest Plebiscite Vote Totals Announced

PY3107191989 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] After scrutinizing votes from 22,960 voting tables, it has been established that 85.7 percent of Chileans voted in favor of the constitutional reforms in yesterday's plebiscite.

[Begin recording of Gonzalo Garcia, Interior Ministry undersecretary]

Total nationwide balloting tables:	22,960; that is, 99.9 percent
Approved:	6,056,440
Rejected:	580,212
Blank:	114,058
Null:	315,918
Approved:	85.7 percent
Rejected:	8.2 percent

[end recording]

Moreover, Interior Minister Carlos Caceres has said that the approval of the constitutional reforms consolidates the 1980 Constitution.

He praised the high level of citizen participation and the low level of abstention, which totaled 6.5 percent, a substantially lower percentage than on other occasions. Caceres also praised the cleanliness of the plebiscite, adding that the Interior Ministry had not received any complaints in this regard.

The interior minister lauded the work carried out by the Armed Forces, saying that they showed a high level of professionalism, and called yesterday's plebiscite an exemplary event.

Aylwin Comments on Results

PY0108042089 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Asked about remarks by Admiral Jose Toribio Merino on future constitutional amendments, Patricio Aylwin, presidential candidate of the democratic forces,

has stated that no one has the legal, political, or moral authority to oppose the future constitutional amendments approved by the Chilean people in the latest plebiscite.

[Begin Aylwin recording] I think Merino's remarks are out of place. The reformed Constitution has established provisions for its amendment. If the future congress and government, according to these provisions, approves the reforms, I do not think anyone else has the legal, political, or moral authority to oppose those reforms. [end recording]

When referring to President Pinochet's remarks regarding the results of the plebiscite, Aylwin stated:

[Begin Aylwin recording] I do not think he has any right to cite this plebiscite as a second reaffirmation of the Constitution. What the people have approved only include amendments that will facilitate the implementation of reform or improvement mechanisms in the future to democratize the system. [end recording]

Aylwin declined to comment on other issues, such as the candidacy of congressmen, saying that he will refer to this matter in due time. He also declined to make further comments on General Fernando Matthei's remarks on the amnesty law.

Opposition Group To Defend Program

PY0108041089 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD] has asserted its authority to disclose and defend the highlights of its program for government, which cannot be vetoed.

The spokesman of the CPPD, Enrique Silva Cimma, has issued a statement responding to the harsh criticism by the Air Force commander, General Fernando Matthei, of some points in the human rights chapter of the opposition's program of government.

[Begin Silva recording] We assert our full authority to disclose and defend highlights of our program of government without their being vetoed by anybody or any institution, no matter how respectable the person or institution may be. Our program of government is not an imposition on the country. It is an open proposal for dialogue with all national sectors and institutions, and it is definitely subject to the verdict of the people in the upcoming presidential and congressional elections. The pertinent authorities chosen by the people will have to decide whether this proposal is converted into state policies. [end recording]

The CPPD added that the political resolutions of the eventual government of the opposition coalition will always conform to the Constitution and the laws, and that the CPPD will make sure that all state authorities and institutions also respect the law, because nobody can trample on the peoples' sovereignty. The CPPD said that it does not intend to trample on the people's sovereignty or allow others to do so. Such behavior would have very serious consequences for the country and its future.

[Begin Silva recording] Regarding the questions raised by the commander of the Air Force, we want to point out that from our point of view the country requires that everyone, civilians and military, admit the need to speak the truth and establish the conditions for effective coexistence. Only in this way will we achieve the Chileans' desire for peace.

The statement to which we are responding—which contains points with which we disagree and points with which we agree—once again proves the urgent need for a dialogue between the high command of the Armed and Security Forces and the national leaders of the most representative political forces. [end recording]

The CPPD statement ends by stating that the country expects respectful institutional dialogue in the search of the agreements necessary for a peaceful and orderly march toward a stable democracy.

Colombia

Labor Group, Judges Protest Assassinations

PA0108115589 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] United Workers Confederation [CUT] members today agreed to go on strike on 2 August to show their condemnation of the murders of CUT members in the country. According to the organization, the government has not made good on the promise it made 4 months ago to protect CUT members and to give financial assistance to relatives of murdered CUT members.

[Begin CUT President Jorge Carrillo recording] Union members continue to be murdered. The country is aware that another member of the CUT National Board of Directors was murdered yesterday. He had been a member for many, many years. Henry Cuenca had been the president of one of CUT's largest federations. [end recording]

In addition, judges agreed to go on strike tomorrow in solidarity with the CUT's protest and particularly to repudiate the murder of a Medellin judge.

[Begin National Association Secretary Jorge Villalobos recording] Judges cannot continue to serve their terms normally, because their lives are endangered. In the next few hours, the Judicial Branch will call for determined and specific actions against groups of paid assassins, who have been murdering the best judges in the country. [end recording]

Both workers and magistrates have asked to meet with President Virgilio Barco, with the government, justice, and labor ministers, the attorney general, and with Police Director General Gomez Padilla. According to the workers, the violence cannot be prevented by giving the magistrates motorcycles and bodyguards; it is necessary for the government to make a determined effort to annihilate the paid assassins who operate in the country.

In a special meeting this morning, Medellin's judges agreed to continue their strike to protest the murder of third judge Maria Elena Diaz Perez. The judges also considered resigning en masse. The National Judicial Assembly decided to continue its strike 1 August, when they will march through the city.

FARC Attack in Meta Claims Several Victims

PA3107231989 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Meta departmental authorities today reported that the nine victims killed in the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] dynamite attack against two Toyota four-wheel-drive vehicles near Vista Hermosa on 27 July do not include Leon Guillermo Tarazona, considered the leader of the Middle Magdalena self-defense groups. A judge is in charge of investigating the attack.

It has also been reported that two of the injured, who were taken to the Granada Hospital, died as a result of serious burns. The first ambush occurred at 1000 and the second at 1700. The attacks occurred 25 km from each other along the road between Pinalito and Vista Hermosa. Only one of the occupants survived, by crawling away from the scene on his hands and knees. The rest of the passengers, including a woman, had no time to react. The explosions left craters three meters in diameter and one meter deep. The vehicles were instantly enveloped in a ball of fire. The rebels finished off the victims with automatic gunfire and prevented local peasants from aiding them.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified witness] We were about to shift into reverse when the explosion occurred and smoke began to rise from the ground.

[Reporter] What did you do?

[Witness] Nothing. There was nothing we could have done. [end recording]

By candlelight, because the village has no electricity, a vigil was kept all night for three of the dead. The others were taken to their places of origin in the country's interior.

[Begin recording] [Nieves Alayon] I lost one of my fine sons.

[Reporter] How old was he?

[Alayon] Twenty-five.

[Reporter] What do you request?

[Alayon] I request nothing. I am not requesting a reprisal against anyone. I leave everything to God. He is the only who can decide what to do.

[Cecilia Diaz] I only request that God give me enough health to raise my other children. I hope nothing will happen to them. I have suffered so much. [end recording]

Authorities and peasants agree that the event is related to the ongoing confrontation between the self-defense groups and the FARC guerrillas in this sector.

Paraguay

Colorado Party Splinter Group Emerges

PY3107171489 Asucion HOY in Spanish 31 Jul 89 p 8, 9

[Excerpts] A new Colorado Party faction called the Colorado Democratic Action [Accion Democratica Colorada] (ADECO) was created in the town of Carapegua yesterday. A group of 6,000 to 7,000 Colorado Party followers from all parts of the country were present at the rally. The new movement is the result of a coalition between the National Republican Association in Exile and the Resistance (ANRER), and the Colorado Popular Movement for Unity and Convergence (MOPOCONA). [passage omitted]

The speakers stressed that ADECO will assume power in 1993 when President Rodriguez will hand over the government to a representative of the new movement, which will grow more and more each day. [passage omitted]

Enrique Riera [Colorado Party Executive Board member] said that ADECO will be the "democratic machete of the party that will eliminate all the weeds and the corrupted elements from within the party."

"We are the ones who opposed the tyrant. We opposed Stroessner in his attempts to use our party as he pleased, counting on the accomplished silence from those who now want to give us lessons in proper party conduct."

"Many of those who barely escaped the 2 February coup sweep now want to reinstigate the corrupt patronage and cronyism used in the past within the Colorado Party."

Bernardino Mendez Vall [Colorado Party Executive Board alternate member] said, "They always said that the Colorado Party needed a change in the leadership. The change arrived on 2 February. We have always said that a change was also needed in the leadership of the party's executive board. The change will arrive with ADECO."

The new movement released a document stating the founding principles of the group that includes "a change in party regulations to reflect the new democratic spirit required by the party."

Peru

Garcia Addresses Nation at Congress Opening

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[Speech to the nation by President Alan Garcia before the opening session of Congress at the Legislative Palace in Lima—live]

[Excerpts] Mr President of Congress, gentlemen members of the National Congress:

Ten years ago, the members of the constituent assembly presided over by Haya de la Torre, calling up on Lord God for strength and in keeping with the powers vested in us by the sovereign will of the people, approved the national Constitution. We believe that the human being comes first and that all honorable people have universally valid rights. Thus we decided to work for a free and just society and for the development of a democratic state based on popular will and on the free, periodic consultation of this will.

We bet on civilized coexistence as a way of launching a process based on stable and legitimate institutions. The most important conditions, however, were set forth in Chapter 1, which recognized the individual's basic rights and duties for the free development of his personality.

Our Constitution was a result of the balance achieved among various and sometimes antagonistic political forces. Thus, some of its economic articles may seem vague. However, under this constitution any ideology can govern the country and make changes in any direction whatsoever, as long as those first conditions agreed upon by consensus are respected. [passage omitted]

This is the last message I will deliver to Congress as president before I turn the Presidency over to a citizen elected by the people.

I cannot fail to expand on the achievements made this year, which, honestly speaking, are much fewer than in previous years. I am delivering a summary of these achievements in writing, as established by the Constitution, for the use of the legislators. It is a summary of material achievements.

It is now more important to me to say that the main objective of the government in the next 12 months will be to reaffirm the system of democratic freedom, which is the most important system Peru has. With this freedom, even the most extreme positions can exist. The reactionary positions of the ultraright and radical ideologies can also live in freedom. Violence has less chance of developing in freedom. The nation has more legitimate means to eradicate violence under freedom.

Like any other citizen, I also believe that sometimes disagreements, political parties, laws, and skillful legal procedures can obstruct many things and stop decisions. However, this is the price we pay for a civilized lifestyle. Democracy does not have the forthrightness of a dictatorship. Democracy is slower, but demands more firmness, more conviction, more patience. Democracy demands the gradual education of the people; this takes a long time. I am saying this because the country has been suffering a dramatic economic crisis since September 1988, and it has been necessary to make harsh changes at a time when violence has seemed to increase.

We heard some people who had lost their cool, demanding an interruption of our democracy. They called for a shorter government term. They also said that the country could defeat the terrorist violence and the economic crisis by restricting freedom and establishing an authoritarian regime.

I believe that those were immature voices, deceitful temptations. Many of those voices unfortunately came from people who have more wealth. By doing this they have shown that they are not yet ready to coexist democratically and to accept that social and economic tensions, even at the worse times, should be handled with serenity and patience. A dictatorship that violates legal procedures will only help to increase violence and legitimate insurgency, and would stimulate the creation of new subversive groups. A dictatorship cannot solve the economic crisis. It would only have limited power and would impose a traumatic experience that would lead nowhere.

I am referring to this issue because the next 12 months will be a crucial period. I call on the Peruvian people to look at the future of our democracy by realizing that in a democracy the problems are solved with more democracy, with more freedom, and with more participation. To have democracy, one must have a great deal of patience.

This is my last message to Congress. I am committed to more freedom and more freedom of expression, which sometimes we doubt because of excesses. However, freedom of expression will always be positive, because without freedom of expression abuse will prevail.

In this critical situation solutions will only be found through a more thorough democratization of the institutions and greater participation of the people.

No political group has a magic wand to solve problems overnight. No theory has absolute validity. Only the greater participation of the people is the solution. This

will be understood in the next few years, as regionalization is strengthened and as democracy and freedom conquer violence and overcome the crisis.

This is not only my commitment for the next 12 months, but also my great confidence in freedom. All problems can be solved gradually. [passage omitted]

I hereby call for general elections to choose the president and the members of Congress on 8 April 1990. [applause]

I would like to remark that I am a politician, that I participate in debates, and that my life is indebted to the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance], yet as president I have a major sacred mission, that of guaranteeing that the elections will be absolutely fair and clean.

I think that the greatest duty of an elected president is to ensure freedom of expression and to guarantee clean elections. Therefore, now that I have called elections, new members must be appointed to the National Electoral Court, with a Supreme Court delegate as its president, in keeping with the law.

I want to expand on this subject. Some retired Supreme Court members who have been mentioned as a possible National Electoral Court president have a notorious connection with the party to which I belong. I respect and appreciate their merits, but I ask the Supreme Court please to be very careful when choosing a retired member, for he must not have political leaning, much less toward the ruling party.

Elections will be held in the next 9 months, and so, in keeping with the law, the state media is as of this moment totally open—without restrictions—to all political parties, at all hours.

I also propose that a multiparty committee from Congress be formed to watch—and if necessary to regulate—the free access of all the political groups to the state media, which really belong to all Peruvians. [applause]

I also request the private media—which has the constitutional duty of contributing to education and culture—to fulfill its duty of being fair and democratic. This means granting space to all political movements and ideas, to keep the power of money from prevailing and to demonstrate that ideas are freely expressed in Peru despite our problems.

Above all, I request the country to be absolutely confident in the elections. Remember that according to the law, it is the Armed Forces duty to guarantee security. I think that the Armed Forces are the main guarantee of our democracy, despite terrorist violence and the disbelief of the powerful. I believe in the Armed Forces, in their loyalty, and in their honor. I call on the country to trust and support them. I have never feared the Armed Forces. I have always dealt with them normally and democratically. I have never seen in them uncontrollable ambition or regarded them as an abusive group that had to be kept under control.

I have always regarded Armed Forces members as human beings with rights, as men who deeply love the motherland and who know what disciplined duty means. Now more than ever, in this year of powerful democracy, we must trust in the Armed Forces powerful stance against violence, because they are the great defenders of democracy.

I will address a paragraph to our Peruvian youth. I share the youth's passion and drive for quick changes. You must regard our democratic future with a lot of patience, because after youth comes the long period of life during which you learn that violent changes are always ephemeral. Only democratic changes are firm, and they can only be achieved in freedom.

I ask the Peruvian youth, which fights and dreams, to see in the young students of China, in the martyrs of Tiananmen Square, an example of a society that after a long experience returns to what we stated in Chapter 1 of the Constitution, 10 years ago: freedom. [passage omitted]

Freedom and democracy, Mr President of Congress, must also bring economic and material progress. Thus, the second great reason for optimism regarding Peru's future is the process of regionalization that we have already begun. I believe that, just as in the case of great discoveries, one sometimes arrives at a new world without realizing it fully. This is happening in our fatherland through the overall reorganization of the state, which is taking place because of the laws passed by this Congress. Perhaps the pre-electoral enthusiasm does not allow us to see this clearly.

The regionalization is the most important political and institutional reform in our life as a Republic. Much of the poverty, the economic chaos, and the violence can be blamed on the bad, centralized, and over-bureaucratic organizations designed to serve powerful interests. [passage omitted]

Lima will no longer see the hundreds of delegations from the provinces that arrive every month to seek solutions to their problems at the ministries and other public institutions. Regionalization will mean the end of the centralist bureaucracy and the beginning of a process of economic reconstruction in Peru, because all the investments that are now concentrated in Lima can be relocated.

Everyday media reports and pressing problems do not allow us to assess fully the scope of the reorganization of the state and the significance it will have in the quest for solutions to Peru's economic problems.

First of all, there will be a more authentic and broader democracy, which will lead, in turn, to a greater involvement of the people in the management of public affairs. This will erect a natural human barrier against terrorism and subversion.

In the second place, the decisions concerning investments of available funds and the projects to be implemented will be made more fairly and democratically. Furthermore, due to greater social participation, more projects will be accomplished with the same funds.

In the third place, because of the proximity of the decision-making institutions, the people will be able to supervise effectively the performance of their officials and will not get tied down by bureaucratic red tape that accomplishes nothing whatsoever.

In the fourth place, once the regional governments and legislative assemblies take hold, they will become the legitimate champions of fair distribution of national income among the regions. Right now, officials appointed by the central government rarely stand up for the very people who appointed them and demand more funds for their provinces. However, regional governments will not be satisfied with what they will be given, and the resulting pressure will help create a fairer balance for the whole country.

In the fifth place, to think of Peru's problems from Lima and to govern them through a centralist administration is absolutely different from doing so from a regional perspective. From the new perspective, Peru will discover immense economic and human potential that cannot be seen from Lima. A model of economic investment, totally opposite to a model of concentration, will come into being. Furthermore, technology, handled regionally, will cease to be a copy of international technology, and will thus be better adjusted to the actual needs of regional production.

In the sixth place, just as it was foreseen in the Financial System Nationalization Law, the regional banks will play the important role of keeping their resources within each region. Today, savings are drained from the provinces into Lima, where 90 percent of commercial loans are handled. The regional banks will retain savings for use in each region. The regions will administer the public enterprises and the large projects, and, as they gain more economic importance, the regions will be able to offer more guarantees to obtain loans.

Projects like Carcani, Olmos, and Majes will be directly administered by the regional governments, which, in turn, will own part of the national public enterprises that altogether now represent a serious problem for the central government.

In the seventh place, the regional governments will assume responsibility for basic services. For education, they will allocate resources, build schools, closely control teachers' absenteeism, and see that illiteracy is reduced in their jurisdictions. In the area of health, the regional governments will give priority to the construction of clinics and hospitals and to disease prevention campaigns. They will also be able to assist with the problems created by temporary employment. However, I think that the greatest transformation will be brought about in agriculture, in the distribution of fertilizers and the allocation of loans.

I am sure that when the regional governments are fully organized, there will be a true revolution in social security as it is regionalized. There are regions that now pay high fees only to receive minor services; I believe that regional governments will demand more justice in these cases and thereby end inequality.

At this point, I call on the Supreme Court to take the initiative in preparing itself for the great regional transformation. Thousands upon thousands of cases come to the Supreme Court from all over the country; hundreds of prisoners are brought from remote places. However, I believe that the higher court for these cases should be located in each region and that the Supreme Court must only act as an ultimate appellate court so that its own administration will be decentralized and regionalized. [applause].

I wanted, Sir, to dwell on this matter at a time when all Peru is listening, so that the country can look to the future through regionalization. This is not a disintegrating move as some want to misrepresent it; on the contrary, regionalization will serve to unite Peru, because centralization has indeed acted as a polarizing factor in the country.

It cannot be argued that the people have not yet attained a position of ability and responsibility, because the central state has not shown any greater degree of ability and responsibility toward solving problems. It is itself a factor. I thank all the political groups who have participated in the discussions and who are preparing themselves to democratically take part in regional elections. Anyone may win, any ideology—radical or conservative—may win. It does not matter, because there is no ideology in regionalization. The important point is that new centers of decision or development can be instituted. The social dynamics in the formation of organized groups around the regional government will revitalize the country's administrative quality.

Furthermore, the formation of regional, more capable, class-conscious bourgeosies with leadership capabilities will remove the feudal character from economic relations.

I am sure that regionalization is the best vehicle for carrying Peru into the 21st century. Regionalization will release enormous social energy and will represent one of the greatest transformations of our nation—just like the

establishment of the four [word indistinct] administrative system during the empire; just like the declaratin of political independence in 1821. The constitution of the regional governments will rank with those events when Peru enters the next century.

In line with that endeavor and in keeping with the law, hereby call elections—following a consultation with the national electoral court—for regional government representatives of the Grau region, created on 1 March 1988, made up of the following provinces: Tumbes, Contralmirante Villar, Zarumilla, Huancabamba, Morropon, Paita, Sullana, Talara, Ayabaca and Piura on 12 November 1989. [applause]

Likewise, I call elections for the region of Amazonas, created on 3 March 1988, made up of the Provinces of Alto Amazonas, Maina, Ramon Castilla, Requena, Loreto, and Ucayali, for 12 November 1989 [applause]; the region of Arequipa, created on 14 April 1989, made up of the Provinces of Arequipa, Camana, Caraveli, Castilla, Calloma, Condesuyo, Siplai, and La Union, for 12 November 1989 [applause]; the region of Moquegua-Tacna-Puno, created on 14 April 1989, including the Provinces of Mariscal Nieto, General Sanchez Cerro, Ilo, Puno, Asangaro, Caravaya, Huancani, Chucuito, Lampa, Melgar, Sandia, San Roman, Huinguio, Tarata, Tacna, and Jorge Basadre, for 12 November 1989 [applause].

As I call these elections, I ask all Peruvians and all political groups to show utmost decisiveness and optimism in undertaking the political, administrative, and economic reconstruction of our nation. Our democratic life and the regionalization process, however, face violence and terrorism as their great enemies. This is the third topic I want to discuss.

We have many serious problems, but we could deal with them if it were not for the continuous anguish over death and violence. So we are determined to give an effective national answer to the assassins and enemies of our democracy. A review of the 9 years since the onset of terrorism in the country shows that all of us, in one way or another, have been complacent, believing that we are not affected by an immediate danger. We all say that Peru is at war against terrorism, but we carry on our lives as usual; the businessmen want to continue making profits; the local authorities want to continue with their projects, ignoring the vital losses caused by this war, as well as the economic damage that contributes to the crisis.

In the past 12 months, 221 electric towers have been blown up; 776 people have been killed by subversives; 166 policemen and 98 members of the Armed Forces have died; 87 civilian authorities—mayors, governors, and officials—have been massacred. As a new form of subversion, strikes enforced through threats of violence and intimidation have been recently implemented. All this has contributed to the departure of affluent people, who prefer to live outside; it spread among the people the idea that the terrorists can win this confrontation. Here, before the nation, I affirm that this is not true, because the democratic state has means to defeat the hundreds, or thousands at the most, of subversives. I affirm that we will devote our final 12 months of government to this effort, so that we can transfer to our successors a democracy consolidated against subversion. [applause] Our decision is clear: All the economic means and all the country's weapons, under the operation of the Joint Command of the Armed Forces, will be placed at the service of democracy in its fight against subversion. [Passage omitted]

Concerning repressive action against terrorism, it is essential to have trustworthy Armed Forces and police. I send them words of encouragement, solidarity, and recognition on behalf of the nation. I also ask them to fight harder in this struggle. Of Peru, I ask understanding and support for the forces of order, the defenders of democracy. [applause]

As we approach the election process, we must also remind the political parties of their responsibilities in the defense of democracy. We have sometimes followed the easy path of believing that a political party is only an electoral instrument to collect votes, but this is not true. A political party must be an organization for the ideological and civic awareness of citizens. This is what distinguishes a political party from an electoral group that is not interested in serving democracy, a group that only destabilizes democracy with its ambitions. On the other hand, an organized political party participates in the ideological battle for democracy by preparing the population. [passage omitted]

I have thought deeply about the following subject, which, as a lawyer, still haunts me with doubts but which, as a chief of state responsible for the security of the nation, I must discuss: terrorism.

Our forces of order are becoming more efficient every day. Congress has passed more drastic laws with harsher punishments. However, terrorism, which resorts to threats and legal tricks, prevents quick trials.

I personally went to the Supreme Court 2 years ago to beg for the creation of special courts, to be later approved by Congress. This effort, however, has not yielded the expected results for a thousand reasons, reasons that I cannot specify but which the whole country knows.

The Peruvian people are demanding expeditiousness, energy, and punishment. This should not lead those of us who as Catholics believe in life to suggest the death sentence as a solution. However, through Congress we can make a legal and sovereign decision. Congress can determine that the trials of atrocious terrorist crimes—which have taken away so many lives and resources—are heard by military courts. To some people this may seem

to be a sacrifice of some civilian powers; this is not so, because the national Congress is entitled to decide on this subject, and Peru is not divided between civilians and military. Peru is only made up of Peruvians. We must accept the fact that those of us who approved the Constitution did not foresee the existence of such a far-reaching and atrocious crime as terrorism.

Therefore, as chief of state it is my duty to propose that military courts for hearing terrorism cases be created, so that Congress may approve it if deemed appropriate. [applause]

The fourth subject I want to discuss is the economy. Much has been said about this, because it is true that we have gone through a dramatic and serious crisis. However, I can now tell the country that the worst part of the crisis has definitely been overcome. [passage omitted]

I can say now that the national economy has begun to recover, and that despite the troubles that still lay ahead of us, the current indexes are encouraging and confirm that the efforts we have made in the past 8 months have yielded positive results. The people will now be able to improve their well-being and increase their consumption.

The economic contraction that began last September has reduced imports and allowed a quick recovery of our reserves. Since last September, in 10 months, the total assets of the Central Bank have increased from $385 million to $1,160 million to date, while the total assets of our whole banking system currently amount to more than $1.5 billion.

This was a fundamental change in the economy because, according to a country's hard currency level, its population can increase consumption and consequently production. [passage omitted]

We know that there is an urgent need to invigorate production and consumption because the economic contraction we implemented has produced results. Therefore, there is definitely no risk of a new traumatic corrective measure. I believe that the country can view the future with more confidence.

However, I would like to discuss an issue here openly and publicly. Some powerful economic groups—which are now politicized—are saying that my government plans to use up our reserves to the last dollar. They say that since the exchange readjustment was made and we now have about $1.2 billion in foreign reserves, we are going to keep prices and the exchange rate low to encourage greater consumption for electoral purposes. By doing this, they say, we are going to use up all the foreign reserves.

I would like to say that this is a false charge made by the rightist groups. It is false because my party and the government want the best for the country, for its future, and for the next governemnt. [applause] [passage omitted] With $1.2 billion in foreign reserves and a high level of monthly exports, I am sure that even if the consumption and well-being of the people increased substantially, the foreign reserves that the next government will inherit will always be more than the $800 million we inherited. The government would thus have imports guaranteed for several months as long as those dollars were not used to pay the international banks. [applause] [passage omitted]

The entire country should be thankful to the peasants and farmers who despite the crisis, and without credits or with few credits continue to work.

I remember that during the most dramatic moments of the economic contraction I turned to the agriculture minister for advice because we had no resources for adequate credits. The minister, who is a farmer himself, said that we had to have faith because the farmers' work and conviction did not depend on bank credits but on the peasants' tenacity.

We did not believe that, but he was right. This is why we must be thankful to the peasants who despite the crisis and lack of credits continue to work while others are crying and taking their money out of the country. The peasants will continue to produce. [applause]

We should see the difference between the humble peasants and other groups' desire to speculate. In 1986 and 1987 those other groups were satisfied with their profits. In 1988, in the face of the problems, they were the first to stop producing; nevertheless, they still wanted to keep their profits at any cost.

There is also a noticeable increase in the fishing industry as a result of price increases and larger volumes of fishing with the support of about 100 individual fishing boats and 5 unloading docks. The estimated production in this sector is positive for this year. During 1988 fishing production reached 6.66 million metric tons and in the first 7 months of this year the production has already reached 4 million metric tons. This represents a 48-percent increase over the first 7 months of last year. This is why Peru will keep its first place in fishmeal production, a place it recovered last year. We will also continue our campaign for the consumption of fresh and frozen fish.

Another important sector is oil. This year thanks to Petroperu [State Petroleum Agency], a company that deserves recognition for its work, new oil deposits have been discovered and the oil reserves enlarged. The most important discovery was made in the Chambira region where an oil deposit of 50 million barrels was found. This is equivalent to $1 billion. The possibility of the immediate exploitation of this deposit is good. Our Peruvian technicians are planning to install the oil pipes already available in the country in the next few months because the new oil deposit is only 30 km from the northern Peruvian oil pipeline.

With this installation, in a few months we will have an additional 20,000 barrels daily for export. This represents approximately $150 million per year. It is good to know that the new oil pipeline will start operating when the next government begins its administration. This is also a contribution to strengthen our democracy.

I am giving this information to show that the dramatic correction of the last 10 months is over. The inflation rate is still high, but there will be no more traumatic corrections.

I would like to salute and recognize the Peruvian people who in 1985, 1986, and 1987 supported our growth and consumption program and who in 1988 and the first months of 1989 suffered the effects of the correction that affected Peru. Their suffering never turned into hate as some people wanted because the people recognized the government's goodwill to do things in their favor.

I would like to tell the people that their sacrifice was not in vain, that because of their sacrifice we have foreign reserves and good prospects for the upcoming years. Let me say that after 4 years of administration, some of which were good and others dramatic, I have learned a lesson I will remember my whole life: The people are the best part of the country. [applause] [passage omitted]

I remember that in 1986 and 1987 I compiled a long list of large and small projects accomplished by my government. This year the works are much more modest, as I said in the report I submitted to Congress.

At any rate some of our accomplishments include 4 million school textbooks, 4,700 new schools, 53,000 new telephones of Entelperu [National Telecommunications Enterprise of Peru], 31,000 new telephones of the Peruvian Telephone Company, 475 heavy machines delivered to the municipalities, 220 running-water installations, and many other projects. These are small projects, but there will be many more next year. [passage omitted]

When the Carhuaquero dam begins to operate and produce electricity in the next few months it will save about $20 million a year, which is currently spent on oil. The Tintay-Juliaca power line is also being installed to take advantage of electricity from the Machu-Picchu dam. Before 12 months have passed this line will provide electricity to Puno, Sangana, and Juliaca. This line will also save oil which is brought to Puno from the northern Peruvian jungle to produce electricity.

We were going to start the third stage of the Chira-Piura irrigation dam, but the conditions of the international credit were very harsh. Therefore, we had to continue with state resources. The most important project was the enlargement of the Miguel Checa canal. When this irrigation project starts operating in 1990 it will irrigate by gravity 20,000 hectares which are now being irrigated with oil-powered pumps. This will also yield great savings.

People forget about these projects when they talk about the deficit and excessive government expenditures, when they say they want to destroy the country. However, these great projects exist. They were built with great economic sacrifice, but they will produce in the future and will consolidate democracy in the next government to be elected by the people. [applause]

The most important project this government has begun is the great Chao-Viru-Moche-Chicama irrigation project. So far we have invested $132 million, which is the equivalent to 400 billion intis. Great attention should be paid to this project. We are taking the waters of the Santa River, and by building 200 km of channles and tunnels, we are irrigating 40,000 new hectares, in addition to 100,000 hectares where double cropping may be carried out. [passage omitted]

Let us not be defeated by terrorism or fear. This is the object of my message. We must rescue the Peruvian people's confidence in the country, their faith in democracy, and put aside bitter infighting. We may disagree on specific subjects, but we must not allow disagreement to break up our democratic relations. We can struggle in the elections, but it is not necessary to exaggerate the crisis to win votes.

Evil things were said about my message, by sectors interested in increasing prices and the dollar exchange rate and in creating uncertainty. These are not clean weapons for democracy.

For example, it was said that to get the public's attention, we were going to announce the expropriation of the (Southern) mining company. Because of this rumor, in the past few days the company has filled the airwaves with television commercials confirming its commitment to Peru.

I regret that only when rumors about an imminent danger are spread do people think about Peru. No, it is not true that we want to nationalize this company. What we want it to do is to fully comply with its obligations and contracts. We want it to return to the Central Bank the money it has remitted abroad. [applause] Above all, we want it to comply with what is demanded from such companies in other countries; that is, we want it to respect the environment and the ecology.

If this company works for Peru, as it claims in its television commercials, then it must fulfill its duty to appropriately treat the waste with which it is currently polluting the valleys of Arequipa, Moquehue, and Tacna. This waste also affects fishing activities in those departments. [applause] It is not necessary to expropriate or nationalize a company to ask it to comply with its duties. [passage omitted]

Here I would like to stress a fundamental point that I brought up before Congress in 1988. I respectfully want to ask Congress to debate the social security bill that I

introduced here a year ago. This is a matter of interest to all Peruvians, a matter that concerns millions of people because it has to do with their health and their economic situation when they retire. According to the Constitution, social security affairs are now centralized in one institution. However, its services are deficient, as attested to by the complaints and criticisms, as well as the scandals they raise.

We 2.6 million Peruvians, along with our employers, contribute 18 percent of our salaries to health and retirement services. There are 220,000 retirees who receive meager pensions, and every time I demand that their pensions be raised, I am told that the institution will go bankrupt and will not have funds to pay salaries to its 42,000 employees who, as it turns out, have priority over the contributors to the social security fund. However, this is not a problem created by people, but, as old Marx said in the introduction to his book Das Kapital, this is a problem of the system and the institution, which must be changed.

The Peruvian Institute of Social Security has hospitals that were built 40 years ago, and the largest numbers of physicians and employees are concentrated in its large Lima-based hospitals. The institute owns 25 buildings in which it invested the money of the retirees, and which generate few resources. Half of all expenses go to payrolls, and this is the reason why health care and pension payments are insufficient. The underlying problem is structural, the existing model based on a single social security institution. [passage omitted]

Last year I presented a bill, and I now insist on it. Its aim is to comply with Article 14 of the Constitution. That article says that, although there is an autonomous and decentralized institution, other public or private institutions can be created, provided that they offer better benefits with the consent of those who sign up for their services. [passage omitted]

As I said last year, if several unions with memberships of thousands of workers create a social security institute to protect their health and guarantee their retirement funds, they will certainly secure better services than they now receive, and for the same fees. Why not create cooperative social security institutions that can offer better and broader services, thus expanding the services of the Peruvian Institute of Social Security? None of this is at odds with the principle of social solidarity, because those who insure themselves through those new entities will still contribute a percentage to the Peruvian Institute of Social Security so it can expand its coverage for the peasant communities, shantytowns, and the unemployed. [passage omitted]

Therefore, I respectfully ask Congress to debate the alternative that I introduced last year, an alternative that will make it possible to solve problems that today apparently have no solution. As we wait for this debate to take place, I announce that the state has nothing to do with the administration of funds that are the legitimate assests of the workers and the insured. The Peruvian Institute of Social Security currently has a directorate made up of three employer representatives, three labor federation representatives, and three state representatives. I believe that it would be more democratic if in the exercise of the right to make such appointments, the state were to designate, as its representatives, the insured, the workers, and the retirees to manage an institution that after all is theirs. They should administer and control it. [applause]

Mr President, this year Peru, which is struggling as a nation for the integration and anti-imperialist unity of Latin America, will host a meeting of the Group of Eight. Seven other heads of state will be here with us, and then, our best message to all Latin America will be to show that we are firmly moving forward to eliminate violence and overcome crisis in our country, by fully reaffirming our democracy, and maintaining our fundamental agreement and faith in freedom 10 years after our Constitution was approved.

People of Peru, in this last message, I express my gratitude, and I call on you to have confidence in the greatness of our fatherland. We have experienced hard times and the situation is still difficult, but it will improve, it will pass. The dark clouds are beginning to move away. We scan the horizons of the future as democracy, regional organization, accomplishments, and our love and hope remain. Thank you very much. [applause].

Marines Repel Shining Path Attack on Refinery

PY0108010689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2113 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Lima, 31 Jul (EFE)—It was reported in Lima today that the Marines yesterday repelled a Shining Path attack against the Pampilla refinery outside Lima.

According to the report, about 20 Shining Path members attacked the refinery from a hill in the Ventanilla District outside Lima.

Helicopters and marines repelled the attack and captured six subversives carrying long range weapons and explosives.

The terrorists apparently tried to blow up one of the oil tanks, which would have caused a disastrous fire.

The security forces of Pampilla apparently saw a group of people wearing ski masks going up the hill and decided to call for reinforcements.

The report also indicates that the subversives who were captured by the security forces were taken to the headquarters of the Antiterrorist Directorate.

The refinery did not suffer any damage, but fire fighters were called in for help.

It was also learned today that in Ayacucho a man and his son were taken from their house by alleged terrorists and shot dead.

The killers put a sign on their bodies accusing them of masquerading as Shining Path members to commit robberies.

Uruguay

Minister Resigns Over Lack of Party Support

PY2807025289 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Antonio Marchesano has resigned because he did not have the full support of the Colorado Party. This announcement was made by Marchesano himself, who said that the reason for his resignation was the comments made by Deputy Daniel Lamas of the Independent Battlist Movement.

He said that although that movement does not change the correlation of forces, it does change his relationship with the Colorado Party. He said: When I went to Congress for questioning, I had the full support of the party, but now this unity is broken.

He also said: I did not want to put the party in a dilemma in which the minister should or should not be supported. Marchesano expressed his appreciation to the president, his aides, and the entire police force for the support given to him during his administration.

Marchesano will take a brief rest and then return to his seat as a deputy, which he is scheduled to hold until 15 February 1990. [passage omitted]

New Minister Designated

PY2907005889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0445 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 27 Jul (EFE)—President Julio Maria Sanguinetti today quickly solved the crisis at the Interior Ministry by designating Francisco Forteza, 56, as the new minister. Forteza replaces Antonio Marchesano, who resigned after the death of a Communist Party member who had been imprisoned at a Montevideo police station. [passage omitted]

Forteza Sworn In

PY2907174689 Montevideo Radio Libertad Sport Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] New Interior Minister Francisco Forteza yesterday said that he will talk with all important political and social leaders of the country in the next few hours to exchange views on his future administration.

Forteza was sworn in yesterday by President Julio Maria Sanguinetti during a ceremony at the Libertad Building. Former Interior Minister Marchesano, all other Cabinet ministers, and various national authorities were present at the ceremony.

During his first meeting with the press Forteza announced he had confirmed Washington Baliero Silva as undersecretary. Forteza also asked the population to cooperate with the police to help this institution do a better job.

Forteza concluded by saying that he will spend his first days at the ministry getting acquainted with all outstanding business on his desk. He added that for the time being he could not comment on the case of Guillermo Machado.

Former Labor Minister To Run for President

PY2807114489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0224 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Montevideo, 27 Jul (EFE)—The Colorado Party today announced that a third candidate will run in the presidential elections. This candidacy confirms that there is a split within the majority party which, in 1984, supported current chief of state Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

This third candidate is former Labor Minister Hugo Fernandez Faingold. According to observers, Faingold's candidacy will decide the dispute between Senator Jorge Battle, of the center, and former President Jorge Pacheco Areco, leader of the right.

Faingold is the eight presidential candidate for the 26 November elections.

Luis Alberto Lacalle, Carlos Julio Pereyra, and Alberto Saenz de Zumaran will run as candidates for the National (Blanco) Party, the main opposition party.

The Board Front leftist coalition's main candidate is General Liber Seregni. Hugo Batalla is the candidate for the integration movement, which comprises the social democratic parties; namely, the Christian Democratic Party, the Civic Union, and the Party for Government by the People, which left the Broad Front.

Venezuela

Panamanian Envoy Summoned to Foreign Ministry

PA2907013989 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0055 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Jacinto Rivera, Panamanian Embassy charge d'affaires, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to explain statements allegedly made by him and published in a local newspaper today. According to a Foreign Ministry bulletin, Rivera satisfactorily explained the information published by EL NACIONAL, saying that there was no

contradiction between his remarks and President Carlos Andres Perez' statements regarding General Manuel Antonio Noriega [commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces].

According to Rivera, Perez' statements during a 20 July news conference demonstrated the president's dignified position and his intention to not interfere in Panamanian internal affairs. Rivera concluded by saying that there is no impasse in relations between Venezuela and Panama.

Four Left-Wing Parties To Form New Group

PA3007004689 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 20 Jul 89 p D-17

[Report by Alberto de la Cruz]

[Text] Four left-wing political organizations will unite as one party to "be a force against the financial oligarchy and neoliberals' offensive."

This and other remarks were made by Radames Larrazabal and Napoleon Barrios—the latter a former presidential candidate—who were accompanied by Freddy Colmenares from Barinas, Jorge Guerrero and Emilio Becerra from Maracaibo, Augusto Villalobos from Cabimas, Dario Gonzalez from Punto Fijo, Alirio Zarate from Tachira, Pablo Moffi and Jorge Figueredo from Barquisimeto, and others.

The group of politicians announced that the new organization, which eliminates the acronyms for four parties, will hold its first National Assembly on Saturday 22 July at 1000 at the El Conde Hotel.

Napoleon Barrios said that the elimination of acronyms to form a united column based upon revolutionary principles is a definitive step, and proof that within the left wing there are those who believe that in unity they will find the strength to fight and create leadership that will struggle alongside the Venezuelan people with the right policies.

Radames Larazabal added that the new organization is not conclusive, nor will it make a problem out of a name for future joint efforts.

"What matters are our principles, which can be described as tools to promote the structural union of the revolutionary socialists, Marxists, Christian socialists, leftists, and radical democrats."

Guyana

Labor Movement Factions Hold Unity Talks

FL2907010289 Bridgetown CANA in English 2309 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 28, CANA—The two warring factions in Guyana's Labour Movement held unity talks Friday [28 July] and agreed to set up a committee to formulate proposals for amending the Constitution of the Guyana Trade's Union Congress (TUC).

Friday's meeting was held at the invitation of the TUC, the umbrella organisation grouping 24 trade unions, seven of which last October set up the rival Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG) while, technically, remaining members of the TUC.

A statement from the TUC Friday, said representatives of six of the seven unions which staged the walk-out last September met with representatives of the TUC Executive Council led by President Frank Andrews.

It said the meeting was held "to discuss the impasse in the movement and seek a solution that would restore unity in the TUC."

The congress will be studying suggestions raised by the six unions, following which a committee comprising representatives of the executive council and representatives of the six unions would meet "to formulate proposals for amending the TUC Constitution aimed at overcoming the impasse and restoring unity among all TUC affiliates."

The long-simmering row within the TUC came to a head last September when the seven unions walked out of the TUC's 35th annual delegates conference protesting against the manner in which the elections for office bearers was being conducted and accusing the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) of seeking to foist its loyalists upon the movement. They also demanded changes in the TUC Constitution to allow for increased, relative voting strength for the larger unions of the TUC.

Since then, one of the seven unions, the Guyana Public Service Union (GPSU) has withdrawn from FITUG and the federation has been plagued by serious internal wrangling over the manner in which strikes it had backed in the bauxite and sugar industries against the government's 1989 budget measures ended.

The federation has also been without its president, George Daniels, who was at the time also president of the GPSU but who left the country hurriedly since April and is now believed to be residing in the United States.

The unity committee set up will be chaired by veteran trade unionist and general secretary of the TUC, Joseph Pollydore, who returned to work Friday after a period of illness.

The rebel unions within the FITUG grouping present at the meeting were the Clerical and Commercial Workers (CCWU), the Guyana Mine Workers Union (GMWU), the Guyana Bauxite Supervisor's Union (GBSU), the University of Guyana Workers Union (UGWU), the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU) and the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial, and Industrial Employees (NAACIE). Neither the TUC nor the government has recognised FITUG.

Sugar Corporation Increases Wage Offer

FL3107224789 Bridgetown CANA in English 2143 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 31, CANA—The Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) has increased its offer of increased wages for sugar workers from 7 percent to 14 percent, and the corporation and the main sugar union are to meet again on Friday to continue talks.

General Secretary of the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU) Komal Chand, told CANA on Monday that the talks are "progressing satisfactorily" with both sides showing some willingness to be flexible by shifting from their original positions. He said one of the issues on the table has been resolved as yet and when negoations resume, it is expected that the focus will be on issues such as tax-free payments for overtime work, the payment of meal allowances, and tax-free production incentives in addition to the across-the-board increase.

Originally, GAWU had demanded that in addition to the 20 percent across the board increase approved by the government for payment to all public sector workers with effect from April 1, 1989, there should be a 300 percent increase in wages for sugar workers to take effect from May 14, when the seven-week strike in the industry was called off by GAWU.

Guysuco said that in addition to its offer of a 14 percent increase in wages, it is offering tax-free payments for work on Saturdays and Sundays. To qualify, workers will first have to work a minimum of four other days during the week.

It said that included in its package of proposals, are the payment of a weekly production incentive instead of a monthly incentive, substantial concessions on the issuing of tools, yachting and safety boots, and adjustment in allowances—including night shift premiums and meal allowances.

The GAWU general secretary said, however, that while his union finds the weekly incentives proposal "very attractive" it is insisting that in the case of overtime payments, the corporation should make tax concessions for all work done in excess of eight hours, on any given day. He said the situation in the industry is now very calm and the turnout at all sugar estates was reported on Monday as being very good, following some unease last week when workers on some estates stayed away from work against what was considered Guysuco's "meagre offer" of just over a 7 percent wages increase. He said that while GAWU was now asking for a 275 per cent increase, the fact that Guysuco has increased its offer, should be considered "very significant" for it indicates that the corporation is prepared to stop being "intransigent."

Suriname

Government, Opposition Leaders on Peace Plan

FL3107180889 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The daily DE WARE TIJD reports that last Saturday [29 July], discussions had taken place between President Ramsewak Shankar, the three Front [Front for Democracy and Development] leaders—Willy Soemita, Henk Arron, and Jaggernath Lachmon—and Army Commander Bouterse.

The discussion, which was held at the Presidential Palace, was about the Kourou Peace Accords. These accords were signed on July 21st last between the government's delegation and the delegation from the Brunswijk Gang. The Military Authority, chaired by Commander Bouterse, has denounced the accords because, according to him, it is contrary to the Constitution.

According to reports in DE WARE TIJD, during the meeting, it was suggested that the accords be presented to the State Council and the National Assembly for discussion. These bodies can then judge whether the agreement is contrary to the Constitution or not, according to DE WARE TIJD.

The government has, in the meantime, asked the trade union movement for its opinion in relation to the accord. This opinion will be announced on Friday coming.

The United States Government has, in the meantime, through a statement from the information service of its embassy in Suriname, announced its satisfaction with the Kourou Accords.

The French military attache has earlier also expressed France's satisfaction with the Kourou Accords.

The Suriname Government hasn't yet given an official reaction in relation to the Kourou Accords.

Shankar To Discuss Accord

FL0108122289 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Surinamese President Ramsewak Shankar said today begins discussions with representatives of various sections of society about the peace treaty for eastern Suriname, the so-called Kourou Accord. He will be talking to representatives of trade unions, the council of state, the national assembly, and the business community.

Meanwhile, correspondents in the Surinamese capital, Paramaribo, say that a compromise seems to have been reached with the military. The Armed Forces had serious objections to the treaty, the main objection being the lack of a specific date for the disbanding and disarmament of Ronny Brunswijk's rebel Jungle Commando. Apparently, the compromise involves a date for the end of the year although there are no precise details available as yet.

Venetiaan Indignant Over Remarks

FL3107183189 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The chairman of the government's delegation which took part in the recent peace negotiations [in Kourou, French Guiana], Education Minister Ronald Venetiaan, says that he's indignant over remarks made by (Eddie Josefson) and (Edwin Marshalls), the journalists in Holland.

(Josefson) and (Marshall) have during a press conference said, among others, that the government delegation in Kourou has promised by word of mouth that the soldiers will withdraw from the areas where there is a state of emergency and that the gang in its new form will be a strike force for the government in conflict with the Army.

(Marshall) was a member of the Brunswijk delegation which participated in the negotiations while (Josefson) (?wasn't) invited to the delegation.

It was also stated that Justice Minister Jules Ajodhia had already worked out a plan to incorporate the Brunswijk Gang in the police force.

Minister Venetiaan has denied these allegations made by (Josefson) and (Marshall).

Union Leader Challenges Agreement

FL2707191989 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Iwan Krolis, chairman of the Progressive Workers' and Farmers Union [PALU], has accused the government of impotence and insincerity. During a press conference held yesterday, the PALU chairman stated that, because of this, the government has been unable to handle the national problems in an adequate manner.

According to Krolis, the signing of the Kourou Accord and the recently held negotiations in relation to the development cooperation are two examples of this. In relation to the restored development relation with Holland, Krolis stated that, from a political point of view, it is inconceivable that the Suriname Government has negotiated with an outgoing cabinet. He is of the opinion that the recent negotiations with Holland were harmful to Suriname, and that the development treaty of 1975 has been violated.

Regarding the Kourou Accord, Krolis stated that his party is concerned about the arrangement made with the Brunswijk Gang. He is of the opinion that many matters, which have been agreed on, cannot possibly be honored by the government. Krolis predicted that this impotence and insincerity of the government will cause political problems within a short time.

Guyanese President Hoyte To Visit 23 Aug

FL3107185389 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] President Desmond Hoyte of Guyana is to pay a state visit to Suriname next month. The planned 3-day visit will begin on August 23d and is in response to an invitation of Suriname's President Ramsewak Shankar when he visited Guyana in March.

Following President Shankar's visit to Guyana, both countries have been pursuing programs of bilateral cooperation.

While in Suriname, Hoyte and his Surinamese counterpart are expected to expand further areas of cooperation. They will also discuss a number of regional and international issues.

Brazilian Envoy Decorates Government Officials

FL2707201889 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] The Brazilian ambassador to Suriname, [name indistinct], has decorated thirteen east Surinamese officials for their contribution to the success of the official visit of Brazilian President Jose Sarney to Suriname in March last.

The Surinamese officials were decorated in five categories of the national order (Vocero de Su). The distinctions were presented yesterday and the day before yesterday. Among the decorated were members of the Council of Ministers, the National Assembly, and government officials.

Commander Desi Bouterse and head of the security service, (Eddie Sayoen), were on their own requests separately decorated yesterday. Bouterse, because of his discord with the Kourou Accord, didn't want to be decorated simultaneously with the other officials of the Council of Ministers and the National Assembly.

During the ceremony, the sincere friendship relations between Suriname and Brazil were emphasized.

Students Continue To Occupy Medical Institute

FL2707135189 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Text] The Assembly Commission for Education was to mediate in the conflict between the medical students and the faculty board. The students have been occupying the Medical, Scientific Institute for a week and a half now to press their demands for improved study facilities and a better study climate at the faculty.

Chairman (A. Cullen) of the assembly commission said that the students demands are realistic, which the commission can support.

Meanwhile, students of the faculty of social sciences have ended their boycott of examinations. They are deliberating with other organizations on actions outside the university for recognition of the bachelor's courses. Their collegues in the faculty of technology also want to embark on protest actions. They have presented their problems in a letter to the faculty board. Technological students demand a structural solution to the problem of lecturers, the lack of study material, and problems related to the scholarships. They also ask for social recognition of courses at the faculty of technology.